

# 俺のペットは聖女さま

My pet is a holy girl

3

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# My Pet is a Holy Maiden

## Arc 4

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## Chapter 55 – New Year

Time passed, and it was the season when the snow that covered much of the Kingdom of Largofiely began to melt.

With this snow melt, the Kingdom entered into a new year.

In this country, it seems that it's not a custom to have a specific birthday, and from the royalty to the commoners, everybody in the country simultaneously accumulates one age.

Tatsumi and Calcedonia are also going to age one year, and when the New Year comes, Tatsumi will become 17, and Calcedonia will become 20.

And then, this means that close to a year's worth of time has passed since Tatsumi was summoned from Japan.

“New Year's Festival?”

“Yes. It's this country's celebration festival to welcome the new year and the snow thawing.

Walking along the almost-snowless streets of the royal capital,

Calcedonia answered Tatsumi's question.

As usual, the two of them walked while cuddling with each other.

The figure of Tatsumi intimately walking with the《Holy Maiden》was initially seen with surprise, but now that a year has passed, the royal capital became completely used to it.

Today as well, the people of the royal capital warmly—and some curiously—looked at the cuddling couple and smiled pleasantly.

At times, people ridiculed him, but Tatsumi was already used to it.

Life in this world began with Calcedonia summoning Tatsumi.

Tatsumi had to carry out his duties as a priest at the temple, and

also had training piled on top as a Temple Soldier.

They were going as magic beast hunters, from around the outskirts

of the Royal Capital until a ways off, to hunt together with Jadokh

and Miloulle to deepen their cooperation as a team and at the same

time, to fill their purses.

Recently, Tatsumi and company started using armaments made from the

materials of the magic beasts they'd hunted and had definitely

grown in terms of both actual ability and equipment compared to

before.

And the time spent together as such with the girl he treasured most

on free days were also precious moments.

"A festival to celebrate the New Year...huh. Sounds a bit fun."

"Yes. Every year, the festival begins with his Majesty the King's

declaration of the New Year, and it continues for three days and

three nights."

"Woah, a three day festival, is it. What do you specifically

do?"

"Let's see... The king and nobles host things like an evening party

and martial arts competitions, but...for the commoners, there's many

events conducted at the Royal Capital's Temples of the Four Great

Gods."

The Protector of Law, revered as a War God, the Sun God

Golaiva.

The Guardian of Night, the Wisdom God, prayed to as the God of the

Arts, the Moon God Glavavy.

The Protector of the Ocean, worshipped as the Guardian of Trade,

the Sea God Dalagarvae.

And, the God of Good Harvest and Marriage, the Good Harvest God

Savaiv that Tatsumi and Calcedonia have a deep connection to.

It seemed like the events with each of these four temples' features

were one of the highlights of the New Year's Festival.

Also, merchants came to the Royal Capital in huge numbers to set up

stalls, and the people wandering about enjoyed them.

It is said that throughout the year this is the greatest profitable

time for troupes and bards, so they all show off their acting and

singing.

"Temple events, huh... Since it's like that, won't we have work

assigned to us?"

"That's possible. But, in this case, I believe there was a

discussion from Grandpa about something."

That was Giuseppe's favorite work in a festival like this. Most

likely, he was scheming something for today.

And, they were almost correct, for Tatsumi and Calcedonia were

bound to be dragged into this plan.

"Well... It seems fun, but also a bit scary..."

Seeing Tatsumi, who was giving a small frown, Calcedonia silently

laughed in happiness.

"Isn't that fine? Even if Grandfather is scheming something, we

will surely be together when we get dragged into it."

"I think so too. As long as we're together, it doesn't matter even

if we get dragged into anything."

At Tatsumi's words, Calcedonia smiled happily and hugged his arm

even tighter.

Tatsumi and the others almost always meet at The Elf's

Resthouse.

As for Eru's cooking that suited Tatsumi, and in addition to Jadokh and Milouille making this their regular inn, they frequently traveled there.

Eru came to this world around twenty years ago. While wandering the world, she was aiming to do a certain thing.

To reproduce Japanese food.

She lived in Japan for a long time and ate many Japanese foods that she liked.

"Even if it's a different world, can't I reproduce Japanese food?" she thought.

She also wanted to keep her memories of living in Japan forever.

Memories of the one who became her husband and of her new friends were treasures that couldn't be replaced by anything to her.

She passed her days with her husband and friends. Japanese food was one of such treasures to her.

So, even in this world, Eru continued the endeavor to reproduce Japanese food.

On her journey, she often found things that tasted similar, but, over and over again, she failed yet another time. Continuing to do trial-and-error, she finally made several types of "Pseudo-Japanese Food."

Now, the pseudo-Japanese food became The Elf's Resthouse's signature dishes.

But, that doesn't mean that her aspiration has already been completed. Eru always tells Tatsumi and the others that she'll be trying to reproduce the perfect Japanese food until the day her long lifespan ends.

Naturally, Tatsumi started liking this pseudo-Japanese food, and

eating Eru's cooking at the The Elf's Resthouse became one of Tatsumi's most favorite things to do.

By the way, Calcedonia asked how to make pseudo-Japanese food, but Eru refused with a smile.

"The recipe is The Elf's Resthouse's trade secret, so no matter how much you wish, I won't tell. When you want to eat this food, please come to my store and help with sales numbers, okay?"

Knowing that it was impossible to get the recipe, she too decided to stay at The Elf's Resthouse and ate the signature food with relish.

Of course, Tatsumi and Calcedonia always came to Eru's shop together and enjoyed the Japanese food that they both missed—Calcedonia never ate Japanese food, but she clearly remembered the smell.

Nanau was a worker at The Elf's Resthouse, and from time to time, Verse would join up with Tatsumi. As for Tatsumi, he would fully enjoy time spent with his love, and friends.

In front of The Elf's Resthouse.

Tatsumi and Calcedonia pushed open the familiar door and entered into the store.

And, in the store filled with the usual smell of booze and food, there was there was a sound, a sound that's different from always.

"Nn? This sound...?"

"...The sound of a lalaena... is it?"

The lalaena that Calcedonia mentioned was an instrument that looked like a tiny harp and was one of the country's most popular instruments.

Hence, one could commonly see bards play this instrument.  
When they looked at the source of the sound, a man that looked to be a bard was sitting on a counter seat and singing while playing his lalaena.

The bard was directing a look filled with passion toward Eru who was on the inside of the counter, but Eru herself had a troubled look on her face while ignoring the bard.

“Oh, isn’t it Tatsumi-chan and Calcey-chan. Welcome!”

Spotting Tatsumi and Calcedonia’s figures, Jadokh beckoned for them to come from one of the tables.

Miloulle was also at the same table, and she was doing the same thing as Jadokh.

When Tatsumi arrived to Jadokh’s table with Calcedonia, he once again turned his eyes to the bard at the counter.

Tatsumi started, “An unfamiliar bard, isn’t he.”

“Yeah. It seems like he’s one of those bards that come to the royal capital ahead of time for the New Year Festival, I think,” Miloulle answered.

“Why the heck is that bard constantly staring at Eru?”

“Probably since he has a high fondness for women. As soon as he came in, he sang a love song to every single pretty girl.”

Miloulle continued, “Even to me, he said “To praise your beauty, please let me sing a song!” Heck, I still get goosebumps whenever I remember it.”

Jadokh added in, “But that man hasn’t called out to me even once?

Isn’t this a complete discourtesy? Here is such a good woman, and yet...”

Jadokh deliberately made a flirtatious gesture.

Perhaps it was to soften the occasion, or unexpectedly, he



seriously thought so; it was impossible to judge, but everybody smiled.

It was a general fact within this kingdom that some bards, regardless of gender, would work a side job as a lover for the night.

Perhaps that bard excelled in those kinds of side jobs.

With that thought, Tatsumi once again observed the bard.

The color of his long hair that hung down to his shoulders was a dirty blonde. His pupils were remarkably clear with an amethyst-like color, and he was a man with a fairly good looking appearance.

Currently, that man was enthusiastically expressing his feelings in a song related to love between men and women.

However, within The Elf's Resthouse, there was nobody concentrating on the song.

Not the magic beast hunter regulars, not even store workers, and not even Tatsumi and his party.

Everyone directed their cold gaze towards the bard.

Certainly, this bard has quite the skill with songs.

It would not be strange if he captured the heart of a young woman in a blink of an eye by combining his low resounding voice and his good looks.

However, the bard had a single fault to his looks.

It was the frivolous smile on his mouth.

With that smile, it was clearly displayed to the audiences in the store what the bard was seeking for.

It was mostly likely a wish for a side job as a "One Night Lover."

In addition to that, not only was it a desire for a companion, but

it was for his own lust that he was seeking for women.  
The women in the store all directed their cold gazes at him  
precisely because they all clearly understood his reasons.  
“...The point is, it’s like a third-rate host forcing a female  
customer to accompany them in the late hours”  
Tatsumi muttered in a small voice, “Well, that certainly would make  
things unpleasant.”  
His lalaena resounded with a piiiiin, thus finishing the bard’s  
performance.  
The magic beast hunters in the store pitied the bard, and threw a  
few silver coins to him.  
The bard frowned for just an instant at the few coins, but after a  
smile immediately smoothed over his face, he elegantly bowed and  
began to gather the coins that were tossed.  
Even though the bard looked at Eru seemingly reluctant to part,  
she, who had seen through his ulterior motive, completely pretended  
to ignore him.  
With the uninterested Eru, the bard had come to a realization and  
direct his gaze toward the inside of the store.  
And swept his gaze, looking around the inn.  
And, his gaze stopped abruptly at a certain spot.  
At that time, the bard’s face energetically shined.  
Excitedly slipping between seats, he came around to Tatsumi and his  
party’s seats.  
“Not noticing when a beauty such as you entered this inn... Who would  
have thought that I, Taland, would have made the great mistake of  
their life!”  
Taland, which seemed to be the bard’s name, courteously  
kneeled.

“May I ask this beautiful lady for your name?”

“Oh my, a thing like a beautiful lady, aren’t ya an honest person.

Ah, my name is Jadokh! Let’s get along, shall we?”

Jadokh talked to him from the side while smiling, but Taland

entirely ignored him.

Presently, his eyes were staring at only one place.

Yes.

At Calcedonia.

“I’ll bet 30 silvers that bard’ll be beaten up by the Holy

Maiden’s magic!”

“Then, I’ll bet the same 30 silvers that Jadokh will throw him out!”

“Okay! The great me will put 80 silvers on Landlady-san beating him black and blue and throwing him out of the inn!”

And at this moment, the magic beast hunters who were in the inn simultaneously began to gamble on the terrible fate of the bard known as Taland.

## Chapter 56 – The Bard’s Fate

“I’ll bet 30 silvers that bard’ll be beaten up by the Holy

Maiden’s magic!”

“Then, I’ll bet the same 30 silvers that Jadokh will throw him out!”

“Okay! The great me will put 80 silvers on Landlady-san beating him black and blue and throwing him out of the inn!”

While the magic beast-hunters were talking in a whisper, they were looking at said bard with a certain expectation.

And, in that place.

“I don’t understand you all.”

“Oh, Miloulle. How ‘bout it? You’re gonna join us?”

“Of course! I wanted to join in at the beginning anyways. Then, I’ll bet 100 silvers that Tatsumi will strip him naked and throw him out of the inn.”

Folding her arms, Miloulle looked at the magic beast-hunters, sure of her win.

“Oi, oi, Miloulle. Are you sure on betting that? It’s hard to think that Tatsumi, who’s always gentle, would do that, you know?”

“Yeah, it’s fine. But, I don’t really don’t get you all.”

She giggled a bit and gave a smile that was full of confidence.

“At times like these, it’s not Calsey who’s the scariest but Tatsumi.”

“...I’ll have to refuse. I don’t feel the need to inform you of my name.”

“What could you be saying, beautiful lady. For us to have met here, it was not a mistake but through the guidance of the Moon God

Glavavy. Come now, let us surrender ourselves to the Moon God together.”

“I am Priest of Savaiv. I don’t intend to make light of the teachings of Glavavy, but I have no reason to abide by the guidance of that God.”

Tarand persistently continued talking to Calcedonia with a smile while she completely refused to put up with him.

Abruptly, Taland impolitely reached out his hand and attempted to take Calcedonia’s slender hands into his own. But just before his hands touched Calcedonia’s, a burly greyish brown arm smoothly slid in from the side.

“Oh my, what a proactive person. I dislike such proactive people, ya know?”

One of Jadokh’s four eyes gave a wink.

For a moment Taland had an absent minded expression, and felt something in his own hand. As if there was something hot, he hastily withdrew his hand.

“T-The rude one from earlier was you! This occasion here should be me and this beautiful lady’s alone. Shouldn’t unrelated people should go elsewhere?!”

“Oh my, isn’t the one going elsewhere you? You don’t want to be embarrassed in the presence of public, do you? Then it’s best to hurry up and depart from here for your own good.”

Smiling, Jadokh warned Taland.

However, the person in question turned around to face Calcedonia once again after deciding to ignore Jadokh.

“You are the most beautiful lady I have ever met! To the pitiful me that has been taken captive by your beauty at first sight, please



give permission to play a song that praises your beauty.”

“No thank you.”

“Hahahaha. You don’t need to restrain yourself. Even the highest beauty in the Royal Capital, the famed Holy Maiden of the Savaiv

Temple, will only be overshadowed by your shining beauty.”

Lightly strumming his lalaena, he sang of Calcedonia’s beauty.

The bard compared Calcedonia to the Holy Maiden, but he did not realize the Holy Maiden was right before him.

For that reason, the magic beast-hunters in the nearby seats were frantically trying to restrain their laughter.

Now, who will make their move first?

The magic beast-hunters who participated in the betting continued to watch Tatsumi’s table.

Suddenly, Tatsumi stood up in his seat.

The hunters who were hoping for Calcedonia, Jadokh, or Eru to move first were surprised at Tatsumi standing up. [\[1\]](#)

“Calsey. I’m going to go to the house for a bit. I’ll come right back, so wait here for me.”

“Yes, Husband. Please take care.”

Standing up, Calcedonia bowed deeply towards Tatsumi.

She did not ask for the reason. She believed that Tatsumi had good reason to clearly state that he was going back to the house in this situation.

Tatsumi also did not worry about leaving Calcedonia alone in this place.

He trusted her above all, and Jadokh, Milouille, Eru, and all of their other friends were here. When push comes to shove, they’d lend a hand.

Giving a smile to Calcedonia, he rushed out of the inn.

Calcedonia, watching Tatsumi's back as he was leaving, sat back down as if nothing had happened.

Of course, this did not go past the nearby bard.

He had a flabbergasted face, completely not understanding Tatsumi's actions.

And, the beast-hunters were not exempt from this; they were tilting their heads, wondering why Tatsumi left Calcedonia to go home.

"Landlady. May I have something to eat?"

"Yees! Of course! What would you like to eat?"

"Husband will come back soon, so two servings of kishimen, please."

[\[2\]](#)

"Okay. Kishimen for two."

After replying in an energetic voice, she disappeared behind the counter straight after.

"My, you both having kishimen again? You two really like it, don't you."

"Yes, since Husband's favorite is also the landlady's kishimen. We were talking about how we wanted to eat kishimen on the way here yet again. Of course, the landlady's other food is good too."

Deciding to ignore the bard, still dumbfounded, they talked happily together.

And, Taland finally came to his senses, and hurried to talk to Calcedonia again.

"Oh, ohhh, your beautiful self's name is Calsey? Well, it is truly a good name. I do believe the name fits your beauty."

The peaceful sound of the lalaena was decorated by Taland's words.

Through his handsome appearance, his good manners, and his art of

conversation accompanied by music, the normal bar waitress would be easily captured by his charms.

But, his seduction did not work on Calcedonia.

She was chatting with Jadokh, entirely ignoring him.

“I’m back!!!”

Without waiting for too long, Tatsumi came back. Taland was surprised at the quick speed, but the hunters were not perturbed at all.

They already knew about Tatsumi’s magic, so the quick round trip from the inn to his house wasn’t met with confused hunters.

But, there were people looking curiously at Tatsumi today.

No, to be correct, they were staring at the strange thing Tatsumi was carrying in his hand.

“My, what is that, Tatsumi-chan? Won’t you tell this onee-san?”

When Jadokh, curious as expected, asked that, Tatsumi, with an expression that was a bit prideful, explained.

“This is my hometown’s instrument; it’s called a guitar.”

Yes.

The thing Tatsumi took from his house. The acoustic guitar that was a memento of his father and came with him when he was summoned into this world.

“Ohhh, a ‘gitar,’ is it. And and? What sound does it make?”

“I haven’t been playing on it recently, so it may be a bit off-tune...”

Tatsumi lightly strummed the strings to check.

The tone of the acoustic guitar resounded peacefully through The Elf’s Resthouse.

Naturally, this was the first time for them to hear this sound.

It could be said that the country's instruments were mostly like the lalaena; they made a high-pitched and strong sound. So, when faced with the acoustic guitar's low and soft tone, it was something new to everyone's ears.

"Calsey. Do you remember this tune?"

Tatsumi started playing a song from his memory. Back when the two of them were living together in Japan, it was a pop song that they often listened together.

"Yes, of course."

After she smiled softly, she started singing along to his guitar music.

The harmony of the deep tone of the acoustic guitar and the soprano of Calcedonia wove together, making a beautiful melody.

Tatsumi's melody, which had a light rhythm, was never heard in this kingdom before.

The songs that the bards sang weren't like the ones that we have today, for they were closer to a story than a song.

Listening to the strange music, the people in the inn were completely confused.

But only at the beginning.

The upbeat rhythm seemed to harmonize with the hunters, and they were soon clapping their hands and tapping their feet to the tune.

Then, a new voice joined in from the side.

Surprising everyone who looked, Eru was there, singing.

As she lived in Japan, she also knew Tatsumi's song.

Tatsumi's guitar and Calcedonia and Eru's voice. The three sounds combined into one, and the music became even more complete. Calcedonia and Eru, it was unknown who did it first, took each

other's hand in hand and started doing an impromptu dance. The dance, with both of them singing and twirling at the same time, perfectly synchronized with Tatsumi's performance. It was a dance that looked much more like a planned ordeal, and indeed, many of the watchers thought of it as such. With this, the beauty could only become greater.

It didn't have the gracefulness of the royal court, but the dance was a casual one that resounded with the common people. And, the two girls who were dancing were extremely beautiful; it'd be strange not to get excited.

They didn't understand the Japanese words, nor was the tune familiar. But, The Elf's Resthouse was completely ruled by Tatsumi's music.

Calcedonia and Eru's virtuosic singing, their energetic dancing, and the customers, the inn's workers, Jadokh, and Milouille's clapping their hands and stomping to the beat.

Before long, the inn became quiet from the song's end. But, that was for only an instant.

The next moment, the inn burst into loud cheers. Smiling, they all cheered for Tatsumi's music and the girls' singing.

"Wha...what... T-This music... What, that song just now... I-I've never heard this kind of music... No, I've also never heard this before..."

Inside the jubilant inn, Taland was the one person who stood out.

He, facing another world's music for the first time, could only be dumbfounded.



To Taland, the music was completely different to anything he had ever heard before. However, the rest of the audience accepted the new music quite readily.

But, he was not so weak as to be discouraged from this.

“Ah, ahahahaha. It was amazing. Even to a bard such as me, your voice just now was too perfect. Well, it’s not only your appearance, but even your voice possesses heavenly beauty.”

Yet again, he kneeled at Calcedonia’s side, and putting his hand on his chest, he elegantly bowed.

“How about it? Will you teach me of your music? Without doubt, I will certainly compensate you for your time. Yes, shall we rent a room at this inn? We can relax, talk together alone, and...”

Apparently, he still hasn’t given up on Calcedonia. His love for women must be a big thing for him.

With the hunters enthusiastically cheering for him, Tatsumi stood up.

“Let’s get this over with, shall we? She... Calcedonia being with you is something I will not let happen. Do you understand?”

Taland gave an unsteady laughter, “C-Certainly, your musical talent is good. That ‘gitar’ may be rare but doesn’t sound bad. But, this is business between me and this beautiful lady. I don’t know who you are or where you came from, but back down. Or, do you think this beautiful lady would like you? You only have a mediocre appearance; do you actually think that you’ll fit in with the beautiful lady?”

To show off his good looks, he brushed up his hair. [\[3\]](#)

Certainly, Tatsumi’s looks could not be said as anything more than ordinary. And, Taland’s body, no matter how you looked at it, would

be classified as extremely handsome.  
However, something like that didn't matter. Calcedonia was  
important to Tatsumi, and Tatsumi was the most precious thing in  
the world for Calcedonia.

Taland did not realize this.

If the bard who tries to hit on Calcedonia, no, if anyone who tries  
to hit on Calcedonia, Tatsumi will become quite angry.

"...Soon, I think?"

Watching Tatsumi and the bard's argument, Miloulle slowly started  
moving towards the exit of the inn.

Upon reaching the exit, she softly opened the door that separated  
the outside from the inn's interior.

"Calsey, Eru, Miloulle, and every other girl in this room,  
sorry. I apologize in advance."

As he was saying that, he slapped his hand onto Taland.

At that time, it was as if Taland's figure blurred.

And, at the next moment, all of Taland's clothing fell off, leaving  
him nude.

".....Huh?"

Taland completely didn't understand what in the world happened to  
his body.

And then, the girls shrieked and covered their faces at the same  
time.

He touched Taland again.

This time, Taland had vanished, and he was outside the second  
after.

Of course, still nude.

Shrieks could be heard from the people walking in front of the  
inn.

Anyone would start screaming if a naked man suddenly appeared in

the middle of the street.

Still not understanding of what happened, he moved about in

confusion, without even covering his body.

From above, something hit him on the head. That something was his

clothes and instrument.

When Taland stared into the inn's entrance, several hunters stared

back at him. He gaped.

"A message from the landlady. You are prohibited from entering this

inn, she said."

"Wanna try going against it? If ya do, we won't still still!"

"We'll get rid of all your instruments and clothing!"

Those talking were Eru's devotees among the regular customers of

the inn.

By choosing to pick a quarrel with Eru, the bard earned the rage of

all who were still yearning to be with her.

If Tatsumi arrived just a little later, Taland would probably have

been thrown out of the inn already.

Shuddering at Tatsumi's technique and awed by the beast-hunters

intensity, Taland hurriedly gathered his stuff and ran away, still

nude and gathering screams.

The inn's door closed with a thud.

Then, the inn burst into loud laughter.

"You did good, Tatsumi!"

"That was so d\*mn refreshing! That bard was too shameless, don't

you guys think so too!"

"But, don't you think it was a bit harsh? You gave him a big blow

with that."

"Yep. After this, he absolutely won't go against me."

"Hahaha, that's not wrong. He's not going to forget being nude in

public!"

“But a nude woman is always welcome! They can come anytime!”

Laughing, the beast-hunters shoved Tatsumi around.

As he was giving a troubled laugh at the slightly rough blessings,

he made a sideways glance at the door and saw Miloulle there with

her right hand in a thumbs up gesture.

Giving her a thumbs up back, he turned to look at Eru.

“Thank you very much, Eru. Sorry for showing an unsightly figure back then.”

“No, no, I too was troubled by that bard, so please don’t worry about it. Besides, hearing that nostalgic song, I unintentionally sang to it.”

She stuck out her tongue cutely. That song she sang along with

Calcedonia was most likely a song she often sang with friends in karaoke.

“Oi, Tatsumi! Not gonna do another song? Play another one for us!”

“That song... That was from your hometown? It’s really catchy!”

“Holy Maiden, Landlady, sing together again!”

On request of the customers, the three of them performed many Japanese songs.

That day, cheers and applause were heard from The Elf’s Resthouse all the way til midnight.

“...An idiot, don’t you think? I even told him to go somewhere else before something happened...”

While the events that happened inside of the inn were going on,

Jadokh faced the closed door and muttered, seemingly bored.

There, Miloulle, giggling, was returning.

“What’s up? You look...really happy?”

“Yes! I made a huge profit because of Tatsumi!”

Miloulle had a huge bag full of silver coins. She dropped it on the

table, and it landed with a thud.

“...A bit sneaky, no?”

“Oh my, I had nothing to do with them starting to bet. I only joined in, you know?”

To tell the truth, Miloulle knew.

When a drunk man groped Calcedonia some time ago, Tatsumi stripped off the man’s clothing.

That event didn’t happen in the capital; they were a little ways off from a magic-beast infested place.

That man appeared in a traveler town’s inn.

It’s something that commonly happens in traveler towns’ pubs.

You could even say that drunk men groping waitresses and other women is an everyday thing for traveler towns.

Modern first-world countries have a completely different thoughts on sexual harassment than this world does. In this world, it could be said dodging customers like these is a skill of waitresses.

But, the man choose the wrong person to harass. More than that, he did it in front of Tatsumi.

That time was similar to this one as Tatsumi also teleported him out of the inn.

Nude and sent out of the inn, without completely understanding what happened to him, he ran quickly away.

Not even the people there knew what had happened, and it was later said that night was strangely quiet, for nobody made a fuss.

“Anyways, aren’t you going to give me hush money?”

“Of course! I made a lot, so you can have whatever you want!”

She happily patted the bag full of silver.

While giving a bitter smile that Miloulle acting like that, Jadokh thought about the bard.



“That man... He certainly has good lip-skills, but...wasn’t that part quite small? How could he please women with only that?”  
Thinking of the clothing-less bard, Jadokh giggled

bad-naturedly.

It was past midnight, and Tatsumi returned to the house with Calcedonia.  
Saying the password and opening the lock, they entered the house.

It was a truly fun day.

There was that strange bard, but their friends were there, and they ate good food and drank weak booze together.

Thinking about the day, Tatsumi turned to face Calcedonia.

“Calsey, sorry, but could the lights—”

Tatsumi’s words halted.

Something soft was covering his lips.

And, at the same time, he smelled a faint perfume. It was the scent of the precious girl he loved.

The soft thing blocking his lips moved away. He couldn’t clearly see in the darkness, but there was two jewels that surpassed even the radiance of rubies in front of him.

“Husband... No, master. Thank you very much for protecting me today.”

“No... I didn’t...”

“do such a big thing,” was what Tatsumi was going to say, but his lips were covered by the same soft thing once again.

For a short while, all that could be heard in the darkness was their breathing.

“...It’s okay. I’m happy since you did it for me.”

Tatsumi’s eyes accustomed to the dark, and he could see a little of Calcedonia’s beautiful smile.

“Yes, my Master is a very amazing person.”

Hugging him, she rubbed her cheek on his chest, like a small bird.

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[1] Note that the author always says

“magic beast-hunter,” but it’s kinda a mouthful in English, unlike the 4-character Japanese, so you’ll see it shortened to hunter or beast-hunter.

[2] A type of flat noodle.

[3] Something like this except male:



## Chapter 57 – Festival and Scheme

Dazzling ornaments adorned the wide room.

One could instantly tell that the decorations were all expensive.

These furnishings made by the finest of craftsmen with all their effort were carefully placed to be in the best position possible.

In this beautiful room, three people were gathered.

Sitting at a huge round table, they were talking as they pleased and enjoying themselves to tea and cakes.

It was like that when a quiet clap came from outside the sole door.

“The Savaiv Church’s Patriarch, Giuseppe Chrysoprase, has arrived.”

A second after the speaking stopped, the door slowly opened.

And then, the person who spoke before spoke once again, “Sorry! I was late!”

Without bothering to be formal, Giuseppe came in, laughing his usual “hohoho” laugh.

He went through the room as if it was his own and sat down on a seat before anyone could offer him one, wearing clothing decorated with ornaments that wouldn’t lose to the ones in this room and exclusive to the Patriarch, the highest priest.

“Really late. Finally became senile?”

Looking at Giuseppe from the side, a man dressed in beautiful robes asked.

“Heh, I’m still not senile; I’m not you. I actually do things.”

A woman in gorgeous vestments said, “Oh, what was that? I heard that you’ve become attracted to a certain young man and are always together. The Patriarch of the Marriage God gay eloping...truly deplorable.”

After she hit Giuseppe square in the face with a chair, she clasped her hands together and gave a prayer to her God.

“Who’s gay, who? I have a great wife, children, and grandchildren! Well, it’s

not wrong to say that there's a young man who caught my eye."

The figure of the young man who could be called his pupil popped into his mind.

"Hey, old man. Is the guy who caught your old man eyes the rumored second Heaven user? Is that guy actually a Heaven-system mage?"

The few people in this room were around the same age as Giuseppe.

Except one. A man who was around thirty-five and dressed in clothing of a similar-level to the others pestered Giuseppe with questions, obviously curious.

"Yeah. He definitely has Heaven-type mana. The dazzling gold mana-light that comes from his body... I saw it with my own eyes. And, he's even come to be able to use the Heaven-system magic《Instant Transition》recently."

His expression showed the pride of a grandfather for his grandson.

The three people watching each had different reactions.

The man who was similar in age to Giuseppe snorted.

"...Humph. The Holy Maiden and now the Heaven-system mage. Why are all the talented people appearing in your church...f\*ck this!!!"

The lone, old woman shrugged in amazement.

"My my. Haven't you entered the path of gayness?"

The final party, the man in his thirties, only became more interested.

"Woah, it's really true! How about it, gramps, want to give that guy to my church? I'll definitely make him out to be the strongest soldier in this country! If he'd like, he could even have my daughter. In that case, wouldn't the rumored Heaven-system mage be my son-in-law? This makes me fired up!"

The man was excited at his own words, however, Giuseppe would, of course, deny the request.

"How could I let him into another church? Besides, your daughter just turned ten. Foremost, he already choose my granddaughter! With my witness, they've been engaged under Savaiv-sama!"

Like a child boasting about a new toy, Giuseppe contentedly laughed while

surveying the three people with him.

“Now, let’s get to the main point. It’s not like we’re here to talk about my granddaughter’s husband.”

“It was you who started talking about him.”

The older man saying that with a sulking expression was the Patriarch of the Church of the Sea God Dalagarvae, Grugnard Armart.

“Even so, I’m also in favor of getting to the main point. Do you think I have endless free time?” the sole woman in the room, Matriarch of the Church of the Moon God, Glavavy Mayalina Kisscalt.

“Tch, the old man won’t just give him to me. But, I want to meet the second Heaven-system mage!”

The eyes of Bugarank Ishukan, the Patriarch of the Church of the Sun God Golaiva, were shining in expectation.

Each of the leaders of the churches of the four great gods in Largofiely had gathered in this room.

“Now, it is time to talk. For this years’ New Year’s Festival, which church will take what.”

That day, when Tatsumi was being taught magic and common sense by Giuseppe.

“Huh? The leaders of each of the great churches are meeting directly with each other...?” asked Tatsumi.

“Yes. Normally, I wouldn’t have to do it, but it’s a tradition for the leaders of the great churches to meet on the New Year.”

Stroking his large, white beard, he answered Tatsumi in a good mood.

“We have to decide how to manage public safety. It’s normally done by the palace guards, but the festival marks a time with more people than normal. And, with more people, there’s more people who may have bad intentions. Besides, there are people who get too caught up in the festival’s mood as well as those who become drunk and violent. So, the churches cooperate to maintain public order. Naturally, that will be the job of the templars, so you’ll

have to join in.”

Tatsumi quietly nodded to Giuseppe’s words.

It was a little disappointing to have work in the festival, but it couldn’t be helped now that he had a duty to do.

“Also, it’s part of the church’s job to help the injured and other people in emergencies. Well, it shouldn’t matter much to you aside from Calsey being there.”

In the festival, there would be people who get into the festive mood too much and do things like overeating, getting too drunk, violence, *etc.*

To help these people, healing magic specialists will be assigned to go, so it’s impossible for Calcedonia to not be there.

“There’s also the church-sponsored events.”

“What kinds of things will you be doing?”

“Every year, the Church of the Sun God organizes the athletic meet for the commoners. It’s not aristocratic-style swordplay tournament or a jousting tournament, but a bare-handed fighting tournament.”

According to Giuseppe, this was a unique game called “Gissh.” Apparently, it was a game similar to wrestling; opponents grapple each other and try to knock the other person down.

However, during this, direct hits such as punching and kicking your opponent were allowed, so it could be said that this game was more extreme than wrestling.

It looked like the Church of the Sun God hosted this Gissh tournament every year.

“The Church of the Moon God is going to try doing a treasure hunt in the outskirts forest. They prepare small traps and other things like that, and you need to pass through those to look for treasures. If you find a treasure, then it will be yours to keep.”

With that being said, even if it’s called a treasure it’s not that valuable; in Tatsumi’s opinion, it seemed like the prizes in a shopping mall’s lottery.

Nevertheless, it is said that a treasure of a slightly higher worth is hidden, and every year a lot of participants gather for its sake, so it's usually a big success.

Once again, Tatsumi felt like this was like the 5-day-4-night trip to Hawaii prize of a shopping mall lottery.

However, since the forest in the outskirts is quite large, finding the hidden treasures is rather difficult. Particularly, because the special prize was hidden so carefully, only a few people have been able to find it in the past.

Moreover, because the location of the treasure hunt is the forest, even if guards were placed in various locations for security, there have been cases where participants sometimes got injured after running into a dangerous beast, or, in rare cases, even lost their lives.

Despite this, it looked like a lot of participants gather every year for this event.

"The Church of the Ocean God doesn't have a competitive event, instead, they offer free drinks and food every year. Even though the festival is only held once a year, the residents of the city aren't just wealthy people. They also have a good reputation among the masses."

Even if all the people living in the kingdom and its surroundings were put together, they would never be able to afford this in their life.

Among them there are also people struggling to stay alive. So, for such people, the festival where the Church of the Ocean God gives out free drinks and food is quite remarkable.

"Then, what does the Savaiv Church do?"

"Mhm, in our church we are holding the ceremony where I personally bestow the god's blessing unto the babies that were born throughout the year. Of course, we plan to do it this year too, but I've been thinking of doing something else alongside it."

Giuseppe said, grinning widely.

—Ah, he's plotting something. And a pretty disturbing idea at that.

Instinctively, such thoughts passed through Tatsumi's head. His relationship

with Giuseppe had been deepening enough to understand something like that.

“For this, your cooperation is absolutely necessary.”

Giuseppe’s smile grew even more. Even so, at this point there was no way that Tatsumi could refuse.

Despite having a bad feeling about it, Tatsumi listened to what Giuseppe was saying.

While listening, shock and confusion materialized on his face; in the end, for some reason, his face turned flaming red.

“Wa-wait a minute, Giuseppe!! D-do I really have to do that!?”

“Yes. If possible, I would like you to do it. So far, our church’s event is quite simple compared to the other three. I can’t accept that; I have really wanted to do something more flashy. However, the obstinate bishops have been bugging me to do something traditional or doctrinal. From the Patriarch’s standpoint, I cannot break down the Church’s traditions and doctrines as the Church has always maintained them till now. But—”

Giuseppe, who was talking while looking into the distance, turned to Tatsumi with a beaming smile.

“—This year we have you. Thanks to you, we can have a flashy event without breaking the traditions and doctrines of the Church.”

“B-but... if this is the plan... e-even if it’s not us...”

“No, as expected, it has to be done by well-known people. That would make it more flashy. Fortunately, you guys are fairly well-known, and you are also my family. If we use family members to perform this for the first time then those thick headed guys from the Church will also be convinced, right? And then, if this event concludes successfully... afterwards, it will be rooted in this Church as a new tradition. Say, son-in-law. Do you agree with me here?”

Giuseppe turned to Tatsumi and lowered his head.

With Giuseppe, who could also be called a benefactor, having spoken to this extent; on top of that, having the Patriarch of the Savaiv Church lower himself towards Tatsumi, Tatsumi could find no way to refuse.



Nevertheless, instead of replying immediately, Tatsumi's gaze wandered here and there around the room – the room where Giuseppe always gave his lectures – while he said stuff like “Aaa...” and “Uuu...”

However, Tatsumi understood himself.

He already couldn't do anything other than to accept Giuseppe's request. Also, at the same time, he decided to firmly draw the line.

“...O-Okay... W-What...about the other person...?”

Tatsumi, completely blushed, finally said that.

“You don't need to worry about it. Everything will be done by us secretly beforehand. If I remember correctly, this is called a ‘suprize’ in your world? Yes, yes, I can't help but be excited for the festival, even if I am this old.”

Saying that, his face looked like a child before a festival.

## Chapter 58 – Incident

“Actually I have a favor to ask of you... Could you listen to it?”

One day, Calcedonia was summoned by Elysia Coulotte, the former Duchess of Coulotte, without warning.

Well, even if she was sick or not, Calcedonia would rush to her side since it was the former Duchess.

Although she was relieved that the Duchess wasn't sick, Calcedonia was somewhat wary of the 'favor' that resulted in her being called here today.

Until now, whenever the madam called her here for a “favor,” it ended badly for Calcedonia.

Introduced to her male relative.

Encouraged to keep up with her aristocrat acquaintance.

Elysia was the one who randomly made a marriage proposal.

Even though they were all worried about Calcedonia, who was in late marriageable age, it was still annoying for her.

However, after Elysia acknowledged Tatsumi, nobody talked about it.

Since it was like that, it wouldn't be another marriage proposal.

While tilting her head inside her mind, Calcedonia waited for Elysia to continue.

“Actually, a daughter of someone I know was supposed to appear at a certain evening party... and my physical condition deteriorated before the size adjustment.”

With her hands on her cheeks, Elysia breathlessly trembling.

“For now, she'll recover in time for the evening party, but not in time for the fitting for the clothing. So—”

Elysia glared at Calcedonia meaningfully.

“Understood. I'll heal her illness.”

“No, it’s not that. I need you to do the clothes fitting in her place.”

“Huh? You want the clothes to be of my size...?”

She blinked her eyes in confusion.

“Yes. Because my daughter and you have similar heights, I want you to wear it during the fitting instead.”

“T-That’s fine, but...wouldn’t healing her be better?”

“T-That’s true, but I’ve already called for the seamstresses. They’ve made time out of their busy lives to come here, so why don’t you just let them do the job?”

While she didn’t really understand what it was about, it was still a request from Elysia. In the end, Calcedonia could only nod while showing a pained expression.

“Then, shall we start now?”

“N-Now!!?”

In front of the surprised Calcedonia, Elysia clapped her hand twice.

In response, the door was knocked on, and with Elysia’s permission several women came into the room with sewing tools, like cloth and needles.

The maids’ hands began removing Calcedonia’s clothes with familiarity.

They then pressed various cloths of various textures and colors to the girl, clad only in her underwear, and consulted with Elysia.

“With Lady Calcedonia’s hair color, wouldn’t this color be more vibrant?”

“True, but don’t you think that this shade suits her better?”

“Um, excuse me... Isn’t it useless if we match it with my hair...?”

“Oh, yes, that’s fine. Since my daughter has a hair color similar to yours.”

“I-I see...?”

She didn’t really understand, but she let them do what they were doing.

After, the seamstresses continued to steadily work.

Deciding on the color of the fabric, choosing accessories, and deciding on the finer details.

They were taking measurements so precisely that she almost thought they were making clothing for her.

“Calcedonia’s skin is, like, so smooth. I wish I had skin as smooth as hers.”

“I know, right? It’s so white too...huh?”

That seamstress saw, on a part of her well-endowed breasts, bruise-like marks on her snow-white skin.

And then, she realized what it was and her face turned bright red.

“S-Sorry...!!!”

With her face bright red, she kept working while trying not to see the bruises. However, she kept staring at the bruises from time to time.

Calcedonia’s face was blushing hard enough that it wouldn’t lose to the seamstress’s, and her eyes were swimming in embarrassment.

“Oh my, it seems like you are getting along well with Tatsumi, aren’t you.”

Elysia looked at the overwhelmed Calcedonia with a radiant smile.

Teased by Elysia, Calcedonia’s blush only grew more prominent.

But everybody in the room, starting with Elysia, noticed her happy smile.

When Calcedonia was flushed with happiness and bashfulness, the room’s door was suddenly knocked upon.

“Excuse me. Senior Priest Yamagata has just arrived.”

“Oh, Tatsumi? I wonder what happened?”

“Yes, apparently it is an urgent request. He would like to meet Priestess Chrysoprase immediately,” the servant on the other side of the door answered.

“I see. How’s Calsey?”

“Yes. I am done with my work.”

The seamstress who was asked lowered her head and answered respectfully to Elysia.

Behind her, Calcedonia, who had started to look worn-out since a while ago, was hurriedly putting on her priestess robe.

Completely different from before, Calcedonia had a completely obvious joyful expression. Elysia told the servants to let Tatsumi into the room while feeling amazed that Calcedonia was this happy when being with him even though they live together.

After a short while, Tatsumi entered the room in his priest robe.

At the moment she saw Tatsumi, Calcedonia's beautiful appearance started to glow with the beauty of blooming flowers. But, she saw Tatsumi's serious expression, and her expression tightened.

"Excuse me, Madame Elysia."

"Welcome, Tatsumi. It's been a while, has it not?"

"Yes, I am sorry for the inconvenience. There is something urgent..."

Tatsumi greeted Elysia briefly and looked back at Calcedonia with a serious expression.

"Calsey, it seems that something happened at the royal palace. We were ordered by Giuseppe to head to the royal palace to check for injured people as soon as possible."

After hearing that something of the scale to wound a large number of people happened in the palace, Calcedonia gasped in surprise. But, she replied to Tatsumi in assent.

"Duchess, I must apologize..."

"Well, I heard everything. Something big happened, didn't it."

In the royal palace, knights and soldiers often get injured during training.

For that reason, doctors are always stationed in the royal palace, but that doesn't necessarily mean they can use healing magic.

Therefore, a church dispatches priests who can use healing magic there everyday. Today it isn't the Savaiv Church's turn, but there should be a healing magic user at the royal palace.

Even so, other people who can use healing magic will be called upon when it's something as big as this.

"I'll arrange for a carriage. Just wait for a bit."

"No, it will be faster if I teleport there with Calsey."

Tatsumi bowed to Elysia and held onto Calcedonia nearby.

And then, their figures disappeared from sight.

Seeing Instant Transition for the first time, Elysia and the maids were stunned.

"... So that's Tatsumi's Instant Transition..."

As Elysia looked outside her window, she saw two people floating in the air.

The figures embraced each other before disappearing again in the moment when Elysia blinked.

"...It's certainly quicker than a carriage. Now then, let's confirm what happened in the royal palace."

Elysia ordered the household to examine the details of the incident in the royal palace.

After that, she smiled again at the maids that were waiting in the corner of the room.

"Now, won't you all do your best for me? Anyhow, the New Year's festival is very soon."

Wind rushed through their ears.

Once Tatsumi and Calcedonia teleported into the sky overlooking the entire royal palace, they watched the situation while falling into the royal palace.

To stop the wind from stealing his voice, Tatsumi put his mouth to Calcedonia's ear.

"This is my first time going into the palace. Have you been there before?"

"Yes. I have been to the royal palace plenty of times as a healer. Of course, I have never been to the more secretive rooms."

The priest acting as the healer always waits in the waiting room if they have

no work. Therefore, Calcedonia's knowledge about the royal palace was very limited.

"Where did the incident happen?"

"Giuseppe said that it was at the venue for the horse-riding competition..."

While falling from the sky to the royal palace grounds, Tatsumi scanned the various parts of the royal palace.

However, as Tatsumi had no knowledge about the royal palace, he didn't know where the venue was. Still, he found a place where many people were gathering, so he asked Calcedonia while looking at that area.

"People are gathering right there. Is it it?"

"Yes, that's the area where military drills take place. Every year, the horse-racing competition would be done at that field, so there is no doubt it's there."

Falling extremely quickly, both of them nodded at each other.

And then, Tatsumi embraced Calcedonia into his arms, and a golden radiance shined.

As expected, it happened in the drill area.

The upcoming New Year's festival. As the event held annually, is the horse-racing competition.

The performers were limited to royalty, nobles, and knights, but the spectacular competition is also popular with the commoners.

Every year, not only the aristocrats, but even the common people would flock to the venue.

The nobles have their own venue seats, but commoners don't have such a luxury.

The common people usually stand, and at most they would watch the competition on a makeshift seats, which sounds fancy but would just be several logs put together.

The incident seemed to happen while making the makeshift seats.

Logs that were being put together collapsed, and low-ranked soldiers and

people who were working on or near the logs were involved.

Even if “log” is just a single syllable, each one was considerably long and heavy.

Since the logs were being put together to make with several stages of seats, the logs had a height. And when it fell to the ground, the people under it got seriously injured.

Some people were crushed under the falling logs, and yet others were hit by the materials used to hold the logs together.

The knights and soldiers, even the priests who were stationed at the royal palace were doing rescue activities respectively, but because the activities were moving slowly, the situation became confusing.

It was at that time Tatsumi and Calcedonia arrived at the scene.

Moving rapidly across the ground, Tatsumi, despite being engulfed by the tense atmosphere from the fluttering voices, grabbed Calcedonia’s hand and stepped into the scene.

“We are from the Savaiv Church! We are here to cooperate with the rescue operation!”

“I am Calcedonia Chrysoprase from the Savaiv Church! I will take care of any injuries immediately!”

The Holy Maiden’s name was also famous among the knights and soldiers of the royal palace.

There is even a theory that when Calcedonia is on treatment duty, somehow the number of people injured while training would increase.

Knowing that the Holy Maiden came to help, a relieved feeling spread among the injured soldiers.

And, of course, a lot of injured people moved towards her.

“I am Calcedonia Chrysoprase from the Savaiv Church! I will take care of any injuries immediately!”

When Calcedonia, beside Tatsumi, said that, he glanced back at her.



When they heard the renowned Holy Maiden came to heal, all the injured would ask for healing. Tatsumi understood that.

But, her mana isn't infinite.

And then, there are the ones whose lives are slipping away at the moment.

So, she should focus on such people.

“W-Wait a minute, Calsey! Stop—”

However, Tatsumi's warning came too late. The injured people, noticing Calcedonia's existence, steadily tried to shove Tatsumi away.

Tatsumi hurriedly stood between the people who were trying to get to Calcedonia.

“Please wait!!! Her healing magic should be prioritized towards those who are severely injured!!!”

The injured people who were moving towards Calcedonia stopped. And they gazed at the unfamiliar black-haired and black-eyed young man who was standing in front of the Holy Maiden with discontent.

“Huh, who are you? You're a priest of Savaiv... just a senior priest from the looks of it... Who are you to stop the esteemed Holy Maiden from healing us?”

While looking at the priest's clothes and holy seal for his status, a knight-like man advanced towards Tatsumi.

Apparently he was injured on his arm, and blood was dripping from his fingertips.

“I will accept your instructions. Now then, Holy Maiden. Please heal me with your magic.”

Trying to push Tatsumi away, the knight stood before Calcedonia.

But, Calcedonia only repeatedly looked between Tatsumi and the knight, clearly troubled and making no signs of using her magic.

She couldn't go against Tatsumi's order to heal, so she was at a loss.

When the knight slowly recognized that Calcedonia did not use healing magic, Tatsumi again intervened between Calcedonia and the knight.

“Please wait! Calsey... no, Priestess Chrysopraxe’s magic is limited. You must give priority to those who are severely injured!”

“So, I’m telling you I’m accepting your order! If she can heal, she should do it to those who are nearby!”

The knight tried to push Tatsumi away with his non-injured arm.

But his arm passed through nothing, and the knight lost his balance and stumbled. Tatsumi swayed his body and easily avoided the knight’s arm.

“Wha!? You...!!”

Did he not like Tatsumi’s attitude? Or did he not like how Tatsumi avoided him? Who knows, but the knight was clearly showing his anger.

“Are you insulting me!!?”

The knight put his hand on his sword at his waist, showing signs of drawing it.

And the knight was not the only person who was hostile at Tatsumi.

Everyone who was looking for Calcedonia to heal them saw Tatsumi interfering with the healing, and was more or less displeased.

“I have no intention of insulting you! However, like I said earlier, her mana is not infinite. That’s why...”

“Enough!!! I get it already!!?”

A light metallic sound. Finally the knight pulled out his sword.

No, he tried pulling it out.

“What are you guys doing here in this emergency?”

Just before the knight pulled out his sword, a calm and dreadful male voice reverberated.

## Chapter 59 – Triage

The voice belonged to a tall, solidly built man who appeared to be around 40 years old.

Although he was a person with an orderly face, since the lower half of his face was covered in a thick beard, he gave off a strong boorish impression.

Also, judging by his clothes and mannerism, it was easy to tell that he was a person of high status.

“So what? What are you clamouring around for? Do you think we have time for this?”

The man surveyed those gathered around him with a sharp gaze.

“Captain Täulorde! Actually, this impertinent priest is hindering the Holy Maiden’s healing!”

The knight who had pulled out his sword said pointing towards Tatsumi.

“Hindering the healing...?”

The man called Täulorde turned his sharp gaze towards Tatsumi.

However, Tatsumi was unperturbed by the gaze. Calcedonia, standing besides Tatsumi, had a happy expression on her face.

“This impertinent priest you are talking about, do you mean my younger brother?”

“Wha... what!? It’s Captain Täulorde’s... brother!?”

“To be exact, he is my ‘soon-to-be brother,’ but I already think of him as my brother-in-law.”

The knight who had been passionately pointing fingers till now, became shocked as he looked at Täulorde and Tatsumi.

“Tatsumi, Calcey. Report the situation.”

Täulorde told Tatsumi and Calcedonia with a strict expression.

Täulorde Chrysophrase.

He was the Captain of the second division of the Kingdom's Knights, eldest son of Giuseppe and Calcedonia's adoptive brother.

In terms of age, he and Calcedonia were like parent and child, but he treated her, his youngest sister in law, with the love and affection of a family member.

And so, towards her partner Tatsumi, he felt dubious at first, however, after listening to stories about him from his father Giuseppe and Calcedonia and actually meeting Tatsumi and conversing with him, Taülorde felt that he could leave his cute little sister in his care.

After that, he started thinking of Tatsumi, who would always follow his words, as a brother in law. Also, after meeting him as a family member, Tatsumi also started trusting in his much older brother-in-law.

"Captain Taülorde's brother. That's a bit..."

Calcedonia looked back and forth between her brother-in-law and Tatsumi, troubled.

"Ah, that, Captain Taülorde..."

"...Tatsumi?"

Looking at Taülorde, his mood seemed to turn bad and he frowned at Tatsumi with a sharp gaze.

For a moment, Tatsumi's body trembled, but he quickly changed his words, a bit embarrassedly.

"U, um... Brother."

"Yes, that is good."

Having been called "brother" by Tatsumi, Taülorde nodded his head in satisfaction.

Ever since acknowledging Tatsumi, Taülorde had been forcing him to call him "brother" or "brother-in-law."

When Tatsumi didn't address him in this way, Taülorde's mood would turn bad; he had a soft spot for family members.

"This is an urgent situation. Explain concisely."

Urged by Taülorde, Tatsumi began explaining.

During a disaster or accident where medical supplies were limited, if there were many injured people, those requiring urgent care must be treated first. For this reason, before actually carrying out medical assistance, it was necessary to separate injured people according to urgency; Tatsumi explained this to Taülorde while desperately trying to recall the knowledge he had acquired from television dramas.

“...Where I’m from, this way of thinking is called ‘triage,’ or ‘Identification Aid.’”

“I see. This certainly is a reasonable way of thinking. However, based on the social customs of this country, this idea is a foreign concept.”

According to Taülorde, in this country, preference was still given to the aristocracy; the higher your social status, the more priority you were given in receiving medical treatment.

Regardless of the pros and cons of it, looking from the point of view of this country’s social norms, what Tatsumi had just said was, without question, a strange concept.

“Also, isn’t it problematic that everyone is in scatters, carrying on their own rescue activities? It would be more efficient if someone took charge and everyone else carried out medical assistance according to their instructions.”

“Regarding that point, His Majesty the King heard about this incident and ordered me to take command of this site. That is why I came to this place...”

Taülorde surveyed the scene.

There were injured people collapsed everywhere; among them there were some who had lost consciousness.

“Alright. You take command for this place.”

Suddenly, Taülorde turned towards Tatsumi and declared the unthinkable.

“M,me? Take command of this place...!? Tha, that’s impossible!!”

“Be that as it may, this ‘Tree-age’ thing you talked about is beyond our understanding. Nevertheless, I reckon that your method will save more lives.

That being the case, isn't it natural that you take command since you are the most familiar with this method?"

"Wha, what familiarity... I've also only heard about it!?"

"Still, it's better than us who know nothing. Do not worry, I will assist you with the minor details. Calcey will also follow your instructions."

After being told this, Calcedonia glanced over her shoulder and nodded with a smile.

"I apologize for going ahead without thinking earlier. I only thought about healing the injured as soon as possible..."

"That can't be helped. As expected, I still don't know too much about the social norms of this country."

If Calcedonia announced her name at this place, as the well-known Holy Maiden it would be convenient for carrying out medical help.

But, this was a situation where Calcedonia had to individually do the healing. There was no doubt that it would be better to do the Triage, as Tatsumi had said, in order to efficiently utilize all the healing magic users in this place.

"...Understood. I'll go ahead and try it."

Tatsumi decided after some contemplation.

Right now wasn't the time to fret over the details. There may be injured people who needed immediate assistance.

"So, brother-in-law. First, please gather all the users of healing magic. After that, people who can't use magic but have knowledge of medicine... together with doctors as well."

"Understood."

Taülorde sent his subordinates to gather healing magic users and doctors.

His men immediately gathered all the people Tatsumi had requested, and brought them back to Tatsumi.

So then, standing in front of all these people, Tatsumi braced himself and opened his mouth.

“I am Senior Priest Yamagata of Savaiv temple. At the request of Captain Taülorde of the Royal Knights, I was given the command of this place. I’ve got lots to think about, but right now we are in an emergency situation. In this occasion, please follow my instructions.”

The gathered wizards and doctors looked perplexed as they stood in front of this unfamiliar black haired, black eyed young man.

However, since the Royal Knight Taülorde and the well-known Holy Maiden were standing behind Tatsumi, nobody dared to complain.

“So first, I would like to request all the doctors present. Please start diagnosing the injured one by one, and then mark them depending on the severity of the injury.”

“Mark you say... for what reason do we have to mark them?”

One of the doctors asked. After that, the rest of the doctors and wizards also nodded in accordance.

“That is so the severity of the injury can be determined in one glance. And then we will start applying healing magic starting from those who are more severely injured.”

“What? Won’t the nobility be prioritised first?”

“Yes. This method is probably unfamiliar to you guys, but please disregard the customs so far.”

The doctors and wizards looked behind Tatsumi at Taülorde with troubled faces.

“I will take responsibility for this matter. Right now, shut up and follow his orders.”

Taülorde said while clapping a hand on Tatsumi’s shoulder.

From the doctors’ point of view, receiving complaints from the nobles later was probably scary.

In this country where the norm was to treat those with a higher social class first, if you disregard social status and treat injuries according to severity, the nobles would obviously get angry and complain.

However, if Taülorde who was the Captain of the Kingdom Knights said he would take responsibility then the doctors would not object to following Tatsumi's orders.

For them, they wanted to save lives where they could help it.

"That's right... for people who are in danger if they don't receive immediate care, please draw a big「○」in a place that is easy to spot. To those that have less urgent but severe injuries draw a「△」, and for those with slight injuries please draw a「#」."

Tatsumi explained while drawing the said figures on the ground, so it would be easy to understand.

"Do you have something to draw with? If not, will you quickly arrange it for Lord Taülorde?"

"In a medical profession, the doctors always carry pen and ink with them."

One of the doctors tapped the bag he was holding; the rest of them nodded in assent. Then, they quickly set about determining the state of the injured.

"Starting from Calcey, all wizards who can do healing magic please start treating those who have「○」drawn on them."

"Yes, understood."

Calcedonia bowed followed by the other wizards.

"Brother-in-law, please order your subordinates to gather all the injured in one place. If possible, try to gather people with the same mark. It would make it more convenient for the wizards to treat them. But, don't forcibly move those who are unconscious or unable to move. Similarly, it is dangerous to carelessly move people with head injuries, so don't move them."

"Understood."

Taülorde nodded and promptly sent his subordinates to carry out Tatsumi's instructions.

After that, Tatsumi, together with Taülorde, settled down at the corner of the training field, and started giving out detailed instructions for dealing with the injured.



Tatsumi was, by no means, an expert in this field, but compared to anyone else at this place he had the most knowledge about triage.

He seriously considered the questions being asked, and tried to look for solutions by desperately recalling the answer that seemed best.

Being supported by Taülorde who was always by his side, or by Calcedonia who occasionally came over to see the situation, Tatsumi frantically hurled out instructions.

While Tatsumi was dealing with this and that, a knight came up towards him.

“Y, you are...”

Tatsumi immediately noticed who he was. He was a knight who had been tormenting Tatsumi some time ago.

“Lord Priest... I apologize for earlier.”

The knight came close to Tatsumi and deeply bowed his head.

“I heard about your healing idea from the doctor who healed this arm.”

The knight had a bitter smile while he held his bandaged left arm. Because it looked to be slightly injured; there was a bandage wrapped around it.

“Once again, your way of thinking is right. Holy Maiden and the other wizards do not possess infinite magical power. No, there cannot be any person who can possess infinite magical power.”

Now it was Tatsumi’s turn to smile bitterly. Because he was a man with the exact infinite power the knight just said to not exist.

“I have been behaving like a pampered noble. Even though I’m not a noble but a knight...”

This person was the third son of an aristocrat. Since he couldn’t succeed his family, he entered the army to become a knight.

“I sincerely apologize. I do not mean to demand recompense, but if there is something I can do to help I would like for you to say it.”

“Is your injury okay?”

“Ah, this is nothing serious. It is a bit embarrassing that I had to rely on the

Holy Maiden's healing magic for this small wound."

The knight laughed while tapping his injured arm.

"I understand. I will ask you to help out."

"Ah, although it's quite late, I am Gyle Eutorillos. I would be glad if you go ahead and just call me Gyle."

"I am Tatsumi Yamagata. Likewise, please call me Tatsumi."

Tatsumi and Gyle clasped each other's hands.

"Husband!!"

While Tatsumi and Gyle were shaking hands, Calcedonia ran over with a despondent expression.

"Please come quickly!! I need Husband's power!!"

"Understood!! Show me!!"

Tatsumi didn't ask for a detailed explanation. As long as Calcedonia says she needs his power, he can't possibly have any suspicion there.

As soon as Tatsumi and Calcedonia started running together, Gyle also immediately followed after them.

At the place they arrived, led by Calcedonia, a single log was rolling down. The ground beneath the log was dark and damp, and a single soldier had fallen down on the damp ground.

When Tatsumi had just arrived at the scene, a stake with the thickness of about 10 cm in diameter was stabbing the soldier's right thigh.

Unluckily, when the logs collapsed the soldier seemed to have fallen on the stakes used to fix the logs to the ground which happened to be there.

Moreover, when the logs collapsed and fell down, it looked like the soldier got injured on his head and other places and was currently unconscious.

"Perhaps, when the logs collapsed, he may have stepped on the stake's tip as he tried to escape. That may have caused the sharpened side of the stake to turn upwards and he must have fallen on it."

Calcedonia explained to Tatsumi with a sorrowful expression.

If you looked closely, the injury on the head seemed to have already been treated, and the bleeding had stopped. Only the stake stabbing the thigh remained.

“...But, if we pull out the stake just like this...most likely, the soldier will instantly start bleeding and may lose his life.”

Gyle, who had been peering at this from behind them, interrupted with a pained expression.

“That is why the moment this stake is pulled out I will apply my healing magic. Then, the bleeding can probably be suppressed to a minimum.”

“However, for a stake as thick as this. It is not that easy to pull it through.”

The 10 cm in diameter stake was completely piercing the soldier’s thigh. If surgery is used it might be possible to get it out, but there was no advanced surgical technique in this world.

In this case, there was no other option than to pull it out by force. Of course, the soldier would have to bear a considerable burden.

“Let’s quickly gather helpers.”

“No, that is not necessary.”

Tatsumi pulled the rushing girl to a stop.

Tatsumi never turned back to look at Gyle, his eyes were fixed on Calcedonia alone.

Looking at Tatsumi’s eyes, Calcedonia nodded. Then, kneeling next to the collapsed soldier, without worrying about getting her clothes dirtied by blood, the priestess began chanting a spell.

Following her, Tatsumi also squatted down beside the soldier and prepared to release his magical power.

“H-Hey... Tatsumi, Lady Holy Maiden, what are you...?”

Only one person, that is, Gyle, was unable to read their intention and was left confused.

Just before Calcedonia's chant was completed, she glanced at Tatsumi.

Tatsumi, waiting for it, released the magical power he had prepared in one breath, and touched the stake that was stabbing the soldier's leg.

The stake disappeared in the blink of an eye, and in the next moment a clanking sound rose up and scattered from the ground next to Tatsumi.

"Hah...?"

Looking at the scene in front of him, Gyle's eyes widened without thinking.

The moment when the stake vanished, blood started spurting out from the open wound on the thigh dirtying the faces and body of Tatsumi and Calcedonia. However, at the same time, Calcedonia's amplified healing magic started sealing the wound right in front of his eyes.

The wound was closing before their eyes. In addition, the bleeding also lessened, and it looked like the bleeding could be kept to a minimum just as Calcedonia had presumed.

Of course, healing magic doesn't only close the wound, it also repairs damaged muscles or bones.

Calcedonia checked the state of the soldier again.

Although he was still unconscious, there was no longer any fear of losing his life.

Calcedonia breathed a sigh of relief and turned to look at Tatsumi with a smile.

Tatsumi, who just saw it all, also let out a slow breath.

"Wha...What...? What happened...?"

Gyle murmured in amazement.

His brain couldn't immediately comprehend what had just happened right in front of his eyes.

He could understand that the wound was healed. The healing magic had been administered by the famous Holy Maiden. If it was her, even severe injuries would heal in the blink of an eye.

But, the fact that the stake that was pierced into the soldier's thigh instantly disappeared was beyond his understanding.

The surprised Gyle stared at Tatsumi and Calcedonia for a while. As time went on, he recalled a certain rumour he had heard recently.

A wizard that could use heaven system magic had appeared in somewhere near the capital.

It was said that the heaven magic user that had only existed in fairytales and legends until now had really appeared.

Gyle hadn't believed in the rumour. He had thought that heaven magic users only existed in myths.

However, the phenomenon that took place right in front of his eyes just now, wasn't it the exact heaven system magic that was often spoken about in fairytales?

The heaven wizard in the fairytales could pull distant objects to his hand, and conversely, a heaven mage could instantly send objects from his hands to the distance. In addition, the legends described the heaven wizard sending boulders into the sky.

The magic Tatsumi used in front of Gyle could only be heaven magic itself.

Also, in the rumour, he remembered it was said that the heaven wizard was a young man from a distant land with black hair, black eyes and pale amber coloured skin.

"...J-Just now, was that heaven magic...? T-Then... Tatsumi is... the rumoured heaven wizard...?"

Gyle, overcome with surprise, asked in a voice nobody could hear.

## Chapter 60 – Together...

When Tatsumi and Calcedonia came home, they were exhausted.

Tatsumi dived in the door opened by Calcedonia, entered the living room and laid his body to the chair.

“...I’m so tired...”

“Thank you for your hard work.”

“Even Calsey is tired too.”

“Yes, thank you.”

After gazing at each other, they laugh at one another.

Those in the accident site manage to remain calm.

By adopting Tatsumi’s triage concept, ultimately there was no one who lost their lives.

However, the mages including Calcedonia was also worn out as expected, as the treatment was not extended to the severely injured that isn’t life threatening, and decided to apply healing magic at a later date.

Tatsumi was able to continue giving instructions at the accident site till the end while being supported by Calcedonia, Taülorde, Gyle and others.

For that reason, Tatsumi is more mentally fatigue than a physical one.

“...Taülorde brother-in-law, too, suddenly don’t want me to take command of the site.”

“Oh, well Husband was doing a good job? Also... When Husband instructed me to go back... You were so cool.”

“Ah... Um, so... Um, thanks.”

Tatsumi’s face went red and shifts his eyes away, when being told he was cool by Calcedonia.

And at Tatsumi’s appearance, Calcedonia gazed with a warm smile.

A gentle and pleasant silence dominated the living room of Tatsumi and Calcedonia's house, recently called as 'Yamagata's house' or 'Yamagata residence' in the neighbourhood, but suddenly Calcedonia broke the silence.

"Ah, I almost forgot! I will prepare the bath right away."

"Oh, right, we already had our meal at the temple before we got home, but I would like to take a bath after all."

As the accident site at the royal palace calmed down, the collaborators from each temple, including Tatsumi and Calcedonia, were given permission to return to their temple from the thankful Taülorde who was responsible for the site.

Tatsumi then returned to the Savaiv Temple, reported the matter to Giuseppe afterwards, and after having a light meal at the temple dining hall, both of them returned home.

Therefore, with the intense fatigue and a full stomach, he thought that he should just go to bed like this, but he also wanted to take a bath to get rid of today's tiredness and dirt.

Especially since Calcedonia never really complained about being covered in blood when treating, so her desire to go into the bath is stronger than Tatsumi's.

"Well, I'm sorry as you are also tired, but I need to ask you to prepare the bath."

"Yes, please wait a moment."

As soon as Calcedonia responded happily, she went to the bathroom.

The preparations for the bath at the Yamagata residence is solely depended on Calcedonia's magic.

was used to fill the bath with water while the water was boiled using .

When it is ready, Tatsumi will go into the bath first, then Calcedonia will take the bath later.

This is because the hot water after Tatsumi enters becomes warm, Calcedonia reboils it with again.

Seeing Calcedonia went to prepare the bath, Tatsumi went and change his clothes.

At that time, not only was Tatsumi changing his clothes, he also preparing clothes for Calcedonia.

At first he was embarrassed to touch her underwear, but he recently accustomed to it completely and no longer felt embarrassed.

That said, it doesn't mean that he became less interested with Calcedonia, rather he simply has no strange attachment towards her underwear.

When Tatsumi was preparing changing clothes for two people, Calcedonia returns from the bathroom.

While showing an expression that's both apologetic and troubled somehow.

Tatsumi tilted his neck without knowing why Calcedonia had that kind of facial expression.

"What's wrong? Did something happen?"

"Well, that is... I was preparing the bath..."

According to Calcedonia, it seems that because she used too much healing magic in the daytime, her mana is about to be exhausted.

Therefore, after filling up the bath with water, there are only enough mana to boil it once.

"Well then, how about Calsey go into the bath, and I can sleep like this, or we can go to the town's hot spring."

"Well, that's it, but... if... if it's Husband... I don't mind..."

Calcedonia's face turned red and looked at Tatsumi with upturned eyes while shaking her hands and body.

"... that... that... will you not... come into... the bath... with me...?"

At that moment.

Tatsumi's face also turned red not to be outmatched with Calcedonia's.

Two large mountains were swaying on the surface of the hot water.



A pretty rose-coloured bud at its tip, coupled with the whiteness of the surroundings makes it looks brighter.

If you think about it, it is supposed to be a lump of fat, yet why it still attract the attention of men.

As for Tatsumi who had hugged Calcedonia from her back and entered the bath, while submerging in the mildly hot water, he glanced over the slender shoulders at the twin mountains disappearing and reappearing under the water, and instinctively thought that it could be said to be the dream for all men.

Of course, part of it was just to escape from reality.

The Yamagata's residence's bath isn't that big. Therefore, to take a bath together, Tatsumi can only enter while embracing Calcedonia.

The softness of Calcedonia's butt on his thigh, coupled with the body warmth that is different from the hot water are in the midst of troubling Tatsumi in various ways.

"It's been a long time... that I am bathing with Husband, no, with Master like this..."

Meanwhile, Calcedonia was strangely happy without knowing Tatsumi's suffering.

"Huh? Is this not the first time I bath together with Cal... Chico...?"

About a year has passed since they begin to live together in this house. They've slept together on the bed many times now, but this is the first time they took a bath together.

When Tatsumi tilts his head, Calcedonia looks back at Tatsumi over her shoulder in any case.

"There is no such thing? Hey, we used to take a bath together before."

"Before...? Ah, was it when Chico is still a cockatiel?"

When Calcedonia was still Tatsumi's pet cockatiel. In other words, when they were still living together in Japan, they sometimes took a bath together.

Although they entered the bath together, it is not that they immersed in the bathtub together as they are now.

The bathing method was that Chico, a cockatiel, bathed in the washstand water and then after bathing brushed herself on Tatsumi's head who was immersing in the bathtub.

There are oil on the surface of bird's feathers, including cockatiels, and this oils are protecting the feathers from water droplets and dirt.

However, when it bathe in hot water, the oil falls, which in the worst case can cause it to get sick.

Therefore, even if its midwinter, Chico will always bathe in water and went on top of Tatsumi's head.

"In fact, soaking in a bath with Master in hot water... was my long time dream."

"Was that so?... If you had told me, we can always take a bath together."

"Well, that is... kind of embarrassing... I cannot say it out loud..."

Calcedonia covered her reddening face.

"But Calcedonia, you invited me today, didn't you?"

"To-today is special...! Be-because... To-today my mana is... you know..."

With a red face, Calcedonia murmured softly.

Tatsumi loved Calcedonia's reaction that he hugged her body from behind.

"Well, next time I will invite you... Will you come in with me again?"

"Yes, of course..."

Calcedonia smiled happily while keeping her back in Tatsumi's body.

For a while, the two remained silent.

However, it is not an awkward silence, but just from the presence of his partner in his body, no words were needed.

And in such a good atmosphere.

Calcedonia felt something touching at her abdomen.

“Master?”

She looked back and glared at the man she loved with partially closed eyes.

“I’m sorry. The texture of Chico’s skin feels good...”

Tatsumi laughed without being shy.

Seeing Tatsumi like this, Calcedonia pouted.

Of course, she was not angry. She was pleased that Tatsumi touched and praised her... to the point that it was embarrassing.

“Master always said that and touched my body...”

“Do you hate to be touched?”

“... You know what I mean?”

Calcedonia averted her line of sight.

“... There is no way I can not like it...”

A low muttered voice. However, Tatsumi who was near could hear it clearly.

“Yeah... I know I heard it.”

Tatsumi answered, with hugging Calcedonia’s body even more.

“Mou!! I hate Master, you meanie!!”

Even with the words ‘I hate it’ was said, a smile was floating on Calcedonia’s face.

When she twisted herself in Tatsumi’s embrace, she forcibly pushed herself against his lips.

## Chapter 61 – Occupation

It was searching. For the warmth of a home.

The place where It had dwelled until now had become impossible to stay in after a long time.

For that reason, It looked for a new Home Tree.

The place It had dwelt before was extremely comfortable.

It has existed for a long time. It has been in numerous places.

Among them, the place that It lived until recently was the most comfortable.

However, it could not stay there any longer.

So, It decided to look for a new “Home tree”.

The place where Humans lived together, was called a village. It had been seeing many Human villages, but It cannot find the suitable place for It to stay.

It moves slowly from a corner of a street of a town or city to another.

It is not visible to Humans. That is not true, as some Humans can hear its voice and those who can see It are even less.

While weaving through between Humans, It was looking for a place to stay.

However, It couldn't find the “Home tree” that It really likes.

Will there not be anything suitable even in this village?

When It thought about such a thing.

It finally found it.

A “Home tree” that is suitable for It to stay at.

It can understand by just looking at it. The “Home tree” is even more comfortable than previous “Home trees” that It had stayed.

When It was pleased that it found a new “Home tree”, It quickly approached

the “home tree” while skipping.

A chair with extravagant decoration.

An old man who was sitting on the chair opened his mouth towards the person kneeling before him.

“... I see. He is a very thoughtful person.”

“Yes. As the person who was in charged of the scene, I judged that with his way of thinking, we will be able to save more lives, so I let him take over as commander.”

“Oh, I do not mind. The one who is in charge of the site is you. It would be fine if you judged so.”

The old man reclined his body to the back of the chair and smiled slightly shy.

“The knowledge from a foreign country... How is it? From your perspective, do you think you can spread that foreign country’s medical knowledge to this country?”

After thinking for a while about what was questioned, the kneeling person looked up to the old man and answered “I am afraid that it is impossible. It is because that knowledge conflicts with this country’s common sense, and the nobles won’t stay quiet, even if your Majesty the one who spread it.”

“Is that so...”

The old man closed his eyes with his back at the chair.

If it by himself, there will be no problem to incorporate anything good, but to convince the surrounding people is another story.

The old man slowly lost in his thoughts without moving a bit.

A long time had passed. Meanwhile, the kneeling person as well as the guard escorts standing behind the old man waited without complain for the old man to return from his thoughts.

And then.

“...Taülorde.”

When the old man opened his eyes, he looked down at the kneeling man.

“Giuseppe... Tell the old man that I want to talk with you again together with your father.”

“By Your will.”

The kneeling person – Taülorde Chrysoprase lowered his head again towards the old man in front of him and tried to leave the audience room.

“Wait a minute, Taülorde.”

However, an unexpected voice called him, and Taülorde stopped to look at the person who voiced it.

“Your Highness... When did you...”

Taülorde’s line of sight was directed towards the back of the overlapping curtains behind the throne – the extravagantly decorated chair sitting by an elderly.

No, Taülorde was watching a boy’s face peeking behind the curtain.

The boy emerged from the curtain’s shadow.

His age is around 14 or 15 years old. A teen who looked to be a bit under the age of maturity, and with one look, people could understand that everything on his body was of the highest grade.

And even though he showed up, the knights including Taülorde were surprised, but they were not to blame.

The boy spoke towards the old man sitting at the throne, ignoring Taülorde who stopped, with no ill intent.

“Hey, grandpa.”

“What is it?”

The man on the throne responded to the boy’s voice with a laid back atmosphere.

“Just now, the one grandpa talked about is the rumoured magician right?”

“Yes, that’s right. What seems to be the matter?”

“Perhaps grandpa, to call Grandpa Giuseppe over, meaning that the magician

will also come... aren't you going to call the royal palace?"

The man on the throne didn't respond to the boy's question, and just laughed.

However, the boy take it as an affirmation, and a smile similar to the man on the throne was shown on the child-like face.

"So, then... Will you let me meet the magician?"

Morning... the time is closer to daytime.

Finally Tatsumi woke up, picked up the wristwatch by the bedside and checked the time.

"... Uwa. Have I been sleeping till this late hour...?"

Surprised to wake up at around noon, while casually looked beside him, there he saw the sleeping face of his beloved woman.

Looking at the restful sleeping face, Tatsumi unintentionally smiled.

Usually, Calcedonia wakes up early in the morning and prepares breakfast, but she seemed to be overslept today.

While thinking that something is wrong, Tatsumi recalled yesterday's incident and thought that it can't be helped.

Yesterday there was an accident at the royal palace, and Calcedonia used magic until her mana and strength was exhausted.

"You must have been really exhausted huh, Calsey."

Tatsumi thought so as he tried to get out of bed softly as to not wake up Calcedonia who was sleeping happily.

However, as he looked closely, Calcedonia holds his arm tightly.

Tatsumi narrowed his eyes lovingly as he gently opened up her fingers and pulled his arm.

Well, he was thinking of washing his face before Calcedonia woke up, and when he tried wearing his indoor shoes, he felt something amiss.

"Huh?"

When he looked at his feet, the shoes were reversed.

“...That’s strange. Even though it was supposed to be aligned when I went to bed...”

After re-arrange the shoes, Tatsumi wears them again.

“...Did I remember it wrongly?”

Tatsumi left the bedroom to the well while tilting his head.

“Um, I’m sorry!!”

Calcedonia who seemed to have woken up finally went to the living room with disheveled hair.

“Good morning, Calsey. Today we were given a day off by the church, so you don’t have to worry.”

He made a report about yesterday’s incident to Giuseppe, and was given a special day off as a reward for their work.

So today, both of them can relax from morning.

“But, but, for Husband to be hungry...”

“That’s why, when I got up earlier, I prepared a meal. Well, compared to Calsey’s, I can’t make anything extravagant.”

When he was still in Japan, Tatsumi was someone who never did any of their housework.

Even when living alone, he mostly ate take-outs, and he never did any home cooked meals.

However, it is necessary to know how to prepare some dishes, as he has to go outdoors such to go monster hunting.

“That’s not alright! To make Husband’s meal is my important job! Only this role cannot be given by anyone else! Even if it’s my dear Husband!”

Calcedonia was flamed up with a strange sense of purpose. To that, Tatsumi couldn’t help but smile bitterly.

“If that’s the case, I’ll ask. Truthfully, I am actually hungry.”



“Yes! I’ll prepare it right away!”

With a happy smile, Calcedonia nods while immediately headed to the kitchen.

However.

“Huh?”

When she entered the kitchen, several wooden dishes that were supposed to be cleaned up last night were on the kitchen.

“...Strange. I remembered that I cleaned it up...”

Calcedonia tilted her head. However, she thought of using the dish for preparing breakfast for now and started preparing it.

That day Tatsumi and Calcedonia stayed at home all day, but strange things often happened.

The tea that she put into a container to drink it later, before she knew it is already empty.

They also missed some dish during meals, even though they didn’t remember eating it.

The window that should’ve been closed was open.

Also, the laundry that was dry was taken in, and the bedroom which was not used during the day was cleaned unknowingly.

“...Perhaps, there is someone here other than us...?”

Tatsumi murmured while sitting in the living room.

When he was still in Japan, he heard about mysterious strangers settling in the ceiling and so on.

Tatsumi who remembered that thought that someone had settled in the house unknowingly.

“I may have to search through the house then...”

“No, I do not think it will be necessary. But, as Husband said, there is no doubt that something had settled down.”

“Whaa? Something settled down?”

Tatsumi lifted his body from the chair unexpectedly and looked around the room uneasily.

However, unlike Tatsumi, Calcedonia seemed calm.

“I think... I think that a Brownie had settled down here.”

“Brownie?”

Brownies are spirits that dwelled in homes.

Although the Brownies sometimes caused mischief towards the people living in the house, despite the fact that they never show themselves publicly, Calcedonia explained to Tatsumi that if anything it is an existence that watched over the house and their occupants.

Although it is certainly not mischievous, won't it be a problem if it continues?”

“That won't be a problem. If you prepare a small meal for the Brownie at the kitchen, it will not cause any mischief. In fact, it is said that when a Brownie lives in a house it will bring good luck.”

“Whoa. It's like a zashiki-warashi, don't you think?”

Well, since it is just a harmless spirit, Tatsumi thinks that it is fine for it to stay.

Moreover, if it brings happiness for the household like zashiki-warashi, there is no reason to refuse.

Also, if the Brownie likes the house and their occupants, it will sometimes help with housework as well. That was why the laundry was taken in and the bedroom was being cleaned.

Well, was it the house and both of us the reason the Brownie liked us?”

“Perhaps, I think so too.”

Tatsumi and Calcedonia laughed heartily.

“Alright... then, Brownie. Let's get along from now on...”

“Thank you very much.”

With this, Tatsumi and Calcedonia decided to welcome the invisible patron.

“Ah... but, me and Husband’s bedroom at night... don’t peek alright?”

Calcedonia added so at the end while blushing, with Tatsumi glanced at her smiling.

## Chapter 62 – Visitor

The New Year festival celebrating the start of the year was approaching. Thus, the city of Levantes, the Kingdom of Largofiely's Royal Capital, was gradually becoming more vibrant.

Other than peddlers and artisans who were anticipating earnings at the festival, nobles from various parts of the kingdom were also in the process of gradually gathering in the Royal Capital. Due to the crackdown on various crimes, which were becoming more and more active the city became busier, the uneasy and tense atmosphere has also increased each day.

As the number of people increased, the usual soldiers alone could not take rounds and thus, for this time only, the templars of each church were also recruited to maintain public order of the city.

Of course Tatsumi was no exception. It was decided that he would take turns patrolling the city along with his senior warrior priests Verse and Neez.

Wearing a chainmail engraved with the Holy Seal of the Savaiv God and armed with a sword and shield, they patrolled the city. After finishing about half a day's rounds, they would return to the Savaiv Church and change shifts with other warrior priests.

Tatsumi and the other warrior priests were in charge of patrolling the vicinity of the church they belonged to, while the rest were patrolled by soldiers. While patrolling under the guidance of a senior warrior priest, Tatsumi would occasionally enter alleyways he'd never been to before, and for him it was a fresh experience.

Thus, after finishing, Tatsumi would go back home alone.

Tatsumi and Calcedonia had a strong impression of always being together with each other, but because of the work at the church it was unlikely that they could return together.

Therefore, Tatsumi left the church by himself again today. Calcedonia still had work to do, so he headed to the market to buy food for tonight's dinner.

And, at that time.

Suddenly, an unfamiliar voice called out his name.

“Hey, are you Tatsumi Yamagata? I heard he has black hair, black eyes and is a foreigner.....”

Hearing his name, Tatsumi turned around and saw a boy standing in front of him.

His age looked to be around 15 years. He looked a few years younger than Tatsumi.

In this country, rust coloured hair and dark grey eyes were the norm so his hair and eye color did stand out. What Tatsumi immediately noticed about the stranger was that he was wearing high quality clothes. Tatsumi figured that he was probably the younger brother of a nobleman.

“Yes, that’s right..... you are?”

“Ah, I’m Jolt. Feel free to call me Jolt.”

Saying this, the boy called Jolt suddenly gave a friendly smile. He casually approached Tatsumi and held up his right hand.

The boy looked to be nobility so Tatsumi warily grasped the hand that was presented. Jolt’s smile deepened.

“I’ve heard a lot about you from grandpa Giuseppe. I always wanted to meet you.”

“Huh? You know Giuseppe?”

“Yeah. I know Calsey too. My grandfather and grandpa Giuseppe have been friends since their younger days. When I was small, I was also taught by grandpa Giuseppe. Because of this, Calsey and I knew each other.”

If his grandfather and Giuseppe were friends, then it was true that he must be acquainted with Calcedonia as well. Hearing that he was Giuseppe’s acquaintance, Tatsumi slightly reduced his wariness with Jolt.

Seemingly, Jolt also realized that Tatsumi was being cautious with him, but he didn’t seem to mind.

“So... is there something you need from me?”

“Oh, there’s no need to be so formal. Come on, be more at ease, at ease.”

Jolt said without breaking the smile. Apparently, he doesn’t seem to be insincere. Tatsumi doesn’t dislike these types of people, so he gradually began to have a favourable impression of him.

“Okay, Jolt. So, what do you need from me?”

“Oh, good, good. From now on, I’ll talk to you in this manner. So, about this matter... that’s right, let’s not stand here and talk. Why don’t we sit down somewhere more peaceful and talk?”

“I’ll cut to the chase. Will you hand over Calsey to me?”

“I refuse.”

Tatsumi and Jolt chose a suitable shop and ordered drinks.

Having confirmed that the waitress had left after taking their order, Jolt suddenly broached the subject.

“Huh? An immediate reply? I haven’t even laid out the terms yet?”

Without thinking, Jolt exposed an open mouthed expression. On the other hand, Tatsumi raised his warning against him to the maximum level.

“It’s not too late to decide after listening to my condition, right?”

“That’s not necessary. No matter how good a condition is presented, I will never, under any circumstance, let go of Calsey.”

“Well, actually, if I do say so myself, I’m pretty high-class, you know? It’s not possible yet, but when I hold real power in the future, I’ll have wealth and prestige to my heart’s content, you know? If you’d like, I can even promote you to the highest noble rank in this country. And, I can arrange for you to marry my sister instead of Calsey.”

“Even if it’s wealth, prestige, or social status, it would never be enough to exchange with Calsey.”

“Hey, now. You’re saying you prefer one woman over wealth, prestige and social class?”

“Naturally.”

“Wow, an immediate reply again...”

Jolt said with an amazed expression. With regard to Jolt, Tatsumi was clearly angry at him.

“Leaving that aside, were you waiting for me to come out of the church just to say something worthless like this?”

“Hey, waiting for you here bears no merit for me too. Actually, my grandfather said he would call for you, so I thought of meeting you then. But my grandfather told me that if I wanted to meet you this badly, then it would only be polite to go to you myself. That’s why, I came here to see you.”

“The reason you went so far to see me is because you want Calsey? I know it’s bad, but I’m not going to listen to your (Jolt’s) story anymore than this.”

Tatsumi placed a few silver coins on the table and stood up.

Tatsumi was obviously angry. However, for some reason, Jolt made a laughing sound.

“Hahahaha. I see. You are certainly like what I heard from grandpa Giuseppe.”

After laughing for a while, Jolt changed his expression, and bowed deeply towards Tatsumi.

“I beg your pardon, but that was just an act to test Tatsumi. I, Joltreon Rezo Largofiely, sincerely apologize.”

“..... huh?”

Listening to Jolt’s official full name, Tatsumi’s body unintentionally stiffened.

His name was composed of three sections, and had Largofiely in it. What kind of status did that represent in this country? Tatsumi was also taught this by Giuseppe.

“R, royal..... ty.....?”

“Oh, I’m genuine royalty, you know? Did I say that? My status is quite high. My grandfather is the current, and my father is the next-in-line king. So, since I’m the eldest son of my father, going straight from here, I’m the next-next-in-

line king.”

This wasn’t just a small matter. In this country, saying you stand at the top was also an extremely good position.

This time, it was Tatsumi’s turn to expose a dumbfounded expression. Looking at Tatsumi, Jolt once again broke into laughter without a care.

“Nah, I’m really sorry. I wanted to check whether or not Tatsumi was like the guy I’d heard from grandpa Giuseppe.”

Tatsumi and Jolt settled down once again. Drinking the tea that was brought over, the two continued their conversation.

“What do you mean by that..... Your Highness?” (TN: Tatsumi reverted to using formal speech here)

“Ah, speak comfortably. Certainly, I’m royalty but this isn’t a public place. Just speak the way you’ve been speaking so far.”

As usual, Jolt had a charming smile on his face; Tatsumi decided to accept his proposal with a bitter smile.

“Ok then, allow me to do so... So, what did you mean earlier?”

“Alright then, I’ll get straight to the point. What I wanted was not Calsey, Tatsumi. It’s you.”

“M-me? By that, do you mean making me your subordinate?”

“Wrong, wrong. I do want a capable man or a rare talent at hand, however that’s not why I wanted to meet you, Tatsumi. The reason I’m looking for you is... I want you to be my friend. Furthermore, a close friend I can put my absolute trust in.”

Tatsumi blinked in amazement at Jolt who had shamelessly asked him to be his friend.

“Don’t you want to? I stand at a high position, you know? That’s why there are lots of people trying to get close to me. But, I can’t just trust those people. Of course, within them, there are some who can be trusted, but those guys also have good families and other various things. Thus, if I get friendly with those people beyond necessity, then that alone would subject them to jealousy...



that's what would most likely be the case."

Tatsumi could understand what Jolt said. If you look at it reasonably, people holding various ulterior motives would gather around Jolt, the successor to the next generation's king. Not being able to trust those people readily was only natural.

Also, if you became close with the future king, there would be people who would get jealous of you.

"However, if it's Tatsumi, then I won't have any doubts. I've been convinced by how you acted earlier. That's why even if you gave me immediate answers one after another earlier, I can trust that those were your real feelings on the matter, right?"

The condition Jolt had presented to Tatsumi for breaking up with Calcedonia was marriage to his younger sister. That was, marriage to the future king's sister.

Getting married to the king's sister, there is no way someone with ambition wouldn't hold on to this. However, Tatsumi turned down that condition splendidly. It's true he didn't know that Jolt was the future king when he turned down the 'marriage with my younger sister' proposal, but he could guess that Jolt must be a high standing aristocrat.

Refusing such a marriage proposal from Jolt was proof that Tatsumi has no political ambition.

"To begin with, why does Jolt want to become 'close friends' with me? You can't be best friends just by saying 'please become,' can you? Moreover, there should be some nice guys around Jolt."

"Yeah. There are certainly guys who would serve me wholeheartedly. But, you know, I'm not looking for something like that. Look at my grandpa and grandpa Giuseppe, and then Sea God Dalagarvae sect's Patriarch, grandpa Gulgunard too..... they've been best friends since old times. Even now they're on good terms, casually hitting each other with abusive language."

Looking at this situation of those grandfathers from an early age, it seems Jolt too started wanting a friendship like them.

“Even now I have ‘friends’. But, no matter what the master-slave relationship doesn’t go away.”

Jolt made a slightly sad expression.

“I guess it can’t be helped since I’m royalty... but, after all, I still want a ‘bestfriend’ like my grandpa’s. Sometimes fighting, sometimes supporting... saying trivial stuff like it’s nothing to each other. Those type of ‘friends’ are what I want. Grandpa has best friends whom he can trust from his heart. Can I not have such a person as well?”

Spilling out of his mouth was Jolt’s earnest wish. Knowing he was serious, Tatsumi also listened to his story quietly.

“In that respect, Tatsumi is a Priest dispatched from the organization of this country, so it won’t be a master-slave relationship with me. And even, if you get close to me, the surrounding noble guys won’t say this or that, right? Also, you have grandpa Giuseppe at your back. I don’t think there is anyone in the nobility that would dare to turn grandpa Giuseppe into an enemy.”

Having also just confirmed that Tatsumi didn’t have any personal ambition, Jolt continued.

“I’m extremely loved by Calsey as well. I also wanted to tell her about the earlier exchange between us. That calm person, what kind of face would she make after listening to Tatsumi’s passionate words... I want to see that.”

“Really? I think Calsey’s face changes a lot based on what you say.”

Jolt’s was only acquainted with the Calcedonia before she met Tatsumi.

The Calcedonia from before kept her interaction with priests to the bare minimum, hardly ever socialised with other people, and always had a forced smile on her face; an unsociable person no matter what. Not letting other people get close to her was one of the reasons that she came to be called the Holy Maiden.

However, since reuniting with Tatsumi, Calcedonia’s expressions were reputed to have become bright and tender.

But, Jolt didn’t know the Calcedonia that had changed after meeting Tatsumi.

In recent years, Calcedonia had been busy making preparations for summoning Tatsumi while simultaneously working as a Priest. And then, after summoning Tatsumi she was always with Tatsumi doing almost everything together, so she had no chance to meet Jolt.

“Huh? Calsey’s face changes a lot? Wow, I can’t believe that. What are you saying?”

Once again, Jolt exposed a stunned, foolish face. Looking at that face, it was now Tatsumi’s turn to laugh.

Tatsumi no longer was not cautious with him anymore. And after listening to his feelings, whether or not they could be best friends was yet to be determined. But, he was starting to think positively about establishing a friendship with him.

“You can’t believe that? Then, come to our house next time. Wait a minute, is it okay for a royal to wander around the city by himself?”

This thought suddenly came to Tatsumi. It shouldn’t be alright for a future king to walk about nonchalantly all by himself.

“Ah, that’s fine. I got permission from grandfather. The fact that grandpa has given permission, there’s probably three to four guards present in the vicinity without us noticing. Besides, right now I’m together with Tatsumi. If it’s Tatsumi, no matter what happens you can take me and escape from here, right?”

“Well, if it’s just escaping then I do have confidence but.....”

“Right? I’ve also heard about Tatsumi’s ability. Oh, by the way, I used a secret passage when I left the castle.”

“S-secret passage ? Ce-certainly there would be secret passages in the castle.....”

“That’s the case. Right, should I show you a couple of the secret passages? As long as it’s Tatsumi it’s fine; it’s ok if you use them to come visit me. Of course, Calsey can come as well.”

“..... those passageways of the castle ..... isn’t that the country’s highly

classified information..... ?”

In spite of himself, Tatsumi felt a headache come on.

But then, if Tatsumi felt that way, even if he didn’t using secret passages sneaking into the royal palace isn’t very difficult.

“Leaving aside secret passages, you’re welcome to come visit our house. Provided that you let me know in advance, though. If you come suddenly, we might not necessarily be at home.”

“That’s right, I want to meet Calsey after such a long time, I’ll come over to your house again next time. Of course, I’ll inform you in advance.”

Tatsumi and Jolt smile casually at each other. Then, they firmly grasped each other’s hands.

This was the encounter between King Joltreon who would later be praised as a wise ruler, and the Exorcist who would be called by the two names Tenshou, and was the beginning of their friendship.

## Chapter 63 – Giuseppe's Skill

"Were the schedules of my shifts during the afternoon of the first day and the morning of the third day?"

"Then, since Tatsumi and I are in the same group, my shifts as are also on the afternoon for the first day and morning on the third. Then, it seems we can watch the horse jousting competition at the last day afternoon. Ok, lets go and watch it with Nanau."

"We brothers are working at that time... Damn, I was looking forward for it; the horse jousting competition"

"There is no choice, Big Brother Neez. This is also work."

In the Savaiv's Church's courtyard, Tatsumi was lively taking with Neez and Verse while confirming the work schedule for the upcoming New Year Festival.

"I'm sure that I would be working on the morning of the second day... Oh, and, grandfather asked me to help with his blessing ceremony on the afternoon of the third day."

"Ah, that's what I was... I was asked too."

While blushing a bit, Tatsumi diverted his eyes away from Calcedonia who was sitting next to him.

Despite Tatsumi's attitude towards her, Calcedonia had thought out their schedule for the festival.

"So, I can enjoy the festival with Husband on afternoon of the second day!

"Yes, that's right."

"Speaking of the second day afternoon, isn't there a treasure hunt event hosted by the Glavavy Church? What if you join it with Calsey? If it's Tatsumi, even if you don't spend time moving, you would be able to find a lot of treasures, wouldn't you?"

"What about you? I think it's not that easy, but... How is your schedule?"

"Mine? My schedule on the first day... Other than waiting in the corner while

His Majesty is giving his greetings, I have no other plans? Regardless of who my father is, I am still 'treated like a child'."

Somehow, Jolt frequently came and go to the Savaiv Church.

At first, Verse was quite suspicious of who he was and predicted he might be an aristocrat; probably from a high-ranking family. But he seemed friendly to Tatsumi, and he identify him as such afterwards.

As expected, Tatsumi didn't reveal Jolt's status either. If Verse knew of his identity, even if he's Tatsumi's acquaintance, he won't make close contact with him.

By the way, Jolt's previous statement 'waiting in the corner while His Majesty giving his greetings' didn't make Verse feel any sense of discomfort. When the king gives the New Year greeting, it is customary for aristocrats to stand beside him.

However, to Jolt and Tatsumi's intimacy, the one who was the most surprised is none other than Calcedonia.

Jolt's sudden appearance at Savaiv Church. When she saw him walked in the church leisurely, She doubt her eyes.

Furthermore -"Hello, Calsey, long time no see. By the way, where's Tatsumi? Are you not together?"- For him to be friendly with Tatsumi, her surprised become even bigger.

Later on she heard about Jolt's encounter from Tatsumi,

"Personally, I want to see the horse jousting competition."

"If so, won't the qualifiers be held on the afternoon of the second day? On the third day... the main event is on late afternoon, so there is a qualifier before that."

"I see. Well then, maybe I should go see it? Will Calsey go with me?"

"Yes, of course I will go!"

Being glad to be sight-seeing with Tatsumi, Calcedonia responded with a big smile.

This was usual for Verse and Neez, but not quite so for Jolt. This was the first time he saw Calcedonia with a big smile so far.

“Wow, I’ve been hearing stories, but when I see it, Calsey will give such an expression towards Tatsumi. Really, I was surprised.”

“No, Jolt. As we told you, Calcedonia is always like that when it comes to Tatsumi.”

“Yeah, I heard it from both Verse and Neez, but... I wasn’t convinced until I see it for myself. It’s as if you know the former Calsey.”

“We only know about the former Calcedonia from the rumors. It was just before her engagement with Tatsumi that I got to know her, and at that time she already behaved like this.”

“But the current Calsey is better than the previous one, right? Then again, Tatsumi can do amazing things himself.”

“Uh, um, Jolt? Um, the thing that I told to you about before...”

After all, it is embarrassing to say that it is a thing of the past. Calcedonia’s looked at Tatsumi who was beside her as his cheeks reddens.

Tatsumi nodded to Calcedonia with ‘it’s fine’ gesture.

A smile returned at Calcedonia’s face. Then, by casually shifting her bottom to shift her sitting position, She bring her body closer to Tatsumi.

“Ah, yes, Calsey. Can you please not call me with ‘Lord’? Since Tatsumi and Verse already stop using it, so Calsey can also stop using it. Will you?”

“Well, er, but...”

“If you think it is hard to stop, how about call me ‘Jolt-kun’ like you used to? Remember that you used to call me that when we were introduced by our grandparents and got to know each other?”

“Well, that was when we were still young... um, well... are you okay with that...?”

“Yes, it’s fine, it’s fine.”

Jolt smiled happily.

“Um, excuse me! If, if possible, I would like Calcedonia to call me ‘Scheró’! Better yet, I would like you to look at me with your cold eyes and step on me with high-heeled shoes!”

Until then, Schero who looked at Calcedonia and Jolt’s interactions with envious eyes, opened his mouth.

Of course, it was ignored.

Tatsumi’s leisurely break time was abruptly stopped when one of the priests showed up at the courtyard.

From the priest’s clothes and holy symbol, he knew that he was a high priest.

“Senior Priest Yamagata.”

The high priest who appeared called to Tatsumi with a gentle smile with a calm, low voice.

“Yes.”

Tatsumi whose name was called quickly stand up. No, not only Tatsumi but both Calcedonia and Verse also stood up.

Only Jolt, who wasn’t a priest, was sitting on a chair with a cool expression.

“Patriarch Chrysoprase requested your presence. Please head to his office immediately.”

“I understand.”

Tatsumi answered immediately with a calm but strong voice.

After giving Giuseppe’s message, the high priest left the courtyard with his back facing Tatsumi, smiling.

“Well, then. Break time’s over. Let’s get back to work.”

Verse said while stretching out.

Both Calcedonia and the Neez brothers went back to their respective work after break time.

“Well, everyone. Do your best at work.”

Alone, Jolt casually encouraged Tatsumi.



“What are you going to do now Jolt?”

“Me? I don’t want to interfere with Tatsumi’s work, so I think I will head straight back home.”

Jolt glanced quickly to the direction of his house – the royal palace.

“But, why kind of request that Grandfather called for Husband?”

“Well, uh, um, well, I guess you can understand?”

Tatsumi responded to Calcedonia who was tilting her head with vague words.

“Well, I will head to Giuseppe’s office now.”

“Yes. Well, see you at the house later.”

Calcedonia waved merrily at Tatsumi who was heading to Giuseppe’s office. Verse and Neez went back to their respective post and Jolt also left the temple.

“How about it, son-in-law? Have you get used to become Calsey’s man?”

When Tatsumi entered Giuseppe’s office, the Savaiv sect’s Patriarch asked him with a merry face.

“Yes. It’s okay... I think. I haven’t said anything at home.”

“Is that so, good. I will be secretly counting on you for a little bit more.”

Giuseppe smile mischievously while planning something. Tatsumi can only laugh bitterly at his teacher’s mischief.

“And, by the way... are the preparations ready?”

“Well, that fox woman cooperates with us happily. It seems that things at their end are already finished, and we only need to wait for the actual event. How about your costume?”

“I was also taught by Giuseppe and finished preparing my costume at the store. Of course, I didn’t say anything to Calsey.”

Giuseppe nodded satisfyingly when Tatsumi answered.

“At last, the festival is coming soon. I’m looking forward to this year’s festival.”

“To be honest, I am not. I am so nervous I’m about to stop breathing.”

“Ho ho ho. If this keeps up, it seems you will be dead on that day.”

Giuseppe laughed happily. However, he unexpectedly changed his expression,

“I’m sorry, son-in-law. It may be annoying to go with my whim, but think of it as a long-awaited dying old-timer’s request.”

“Oh, a dying old-timer’s... Isn’t Giuseppe still fine?”

“Isn’t that so? I’ve already lived for quite some time. And the God’s calling slowly approaches us old people, and this is a good proof of happiness.”

“... ‘My grandparents die, my parents die, my children die’, is it.”

“Hmm? What does that mean?”

“My hometown... This is something I heard long ago in some local folks tale or somewhere in Japan... Although the details are a bit vague, the main point is that the death of an elderly is inevitable and it is a proof that everyone has a complete life in a disease-free environment.”

“Hmm, I see... that is quite a deep story. Let me hear more about the story when we have the opportunity someday.”

Giuseppe who heard Tatsumi’s story nodded repeatedly with interest.

“By the way... I haven’t told Calsey about this, but how about my other acquaintances?”

“Hmm, recently son-in-law seems to have acquire some friends, so I’d like to have their point of view. I don’t want son-in-law’s acquaintance to know, but can you find the ones who can keep a secret without giving it away?”

“Yes. I will keep it confidential to those who can’t keep a secret.”

If you hear from the exchange between the two person, it seems that he is quite skillful, but with Tatsumi’s somewhat embarrassed appearance that it is easy to presume that it is not just mere skill.

In this way, Giuseppe’s so-called ‘Skillful Maneuvering’ was spread to Tatsumi’s acquaintances – except for those who are loose-mouthed – and quietly show excitement.

And so.

Finally, the day of the New Year Festival that was held to announce a new year has arrived.

## Chapter 64 – New Year Festival

“In the name of this Kingdom’s King, Baride Rezo Largofiely, with the arrival of the new year, I hereby announce the commencement of the New Year’s Festival!”

The balcony faced the courtyard of the Royal Palace.

Standing there, Largofiely Kingdom’s King, facing the courtyard filled with nobles and commoners alike, proclaimed grandly.

With this, the King’s words marked the beginning of the new year and the New Year’s Festival.

Along with the King’s declaration, food and drinks began flowing through the Royal Palace courtyard.

During the festival, a part of the Royal Palace was opened to the public; in the Palace where they’ve never walked in, the common people were looking around curiously.

Of course, the critical places were sealed off; knights and soldiers adorned in ceremonial weapons and armour were stationed around those places.

But, the knights’ ostentatious outfits were also very popular among the little children. The children, particularly young boys, were gazing at the imposing figures of the knights, that they couldn’t normally look at so closely, with sparkling eyes.

Also, the knights who were getting these glances of admiration from the children responded a bit awkwardly to the children’s expectations by, proudly puffing out their chests.

Among the crowd there were also some who were drunkards who, after trying to enter the prohibited areas, were being sent back by the knights; this too was also one of the customary practices of the New Years Festival.

Naturally, not just the Royal Palace, but all the streets of Levantes were filled with the festive spirit. The sounds of clanking wine glasses reverberated all over the streets, and musicians and acrobats competed over their skills.

In the marketplace, merchants had proudly displayed their wares and were busy calling out customers.

Just for this day, nobles who normally didn't go out to the city to shop – they normally made servants buy things for them or called merchants to their homes – were also busy browsing the displayed wares mixed with the common people.

However, when the streets are engulfed in such an atmosphere, then naturally crimes such as pickpocketing or purse-snatchers would also increase.

Thus, among the people who were enjoying the festival, figures of soldiers in majestic armours and priest warriors were scattered all over the city.

“.....is this is the festival of this country.....”

Tatsumi, who was walking around the city as a warrior priest, muttered as he looked at the joyous atmosphere of the people.

In a town overflowing with the stir of excited voices along with various music, it was easy to tell that everyone was really enjoying the festival.

It seems like the lively atmosphere of festivals was common everywhere. Even in a different dimension it didn't change. Tatsumi came to realise while patrolling the city.

At the same time, he kept a vigilant gaze on his surroundings.

Right now he was in the middle of maintaining the public order as a warrior priest. He couldn't afford to become absorbed in the festival atmosphere and overlook crimes.

Saying that, it was still the height of the festival. Tatsumi too couldn't hold back his excitement.

Then, over there.

“..... but, Lord Giuseppe also asked for an unexpectedly unreasonable thing.”

The one who said this in a disgruntled tone was Verse who was Tatsumi's patrol partner. Naturally, he was also walking through the festive town in full warrior priest uniform.

“So, did Tatsumi agree to Lord Giuseppe's plan?”

“Well..... it’s more like I had no choice but to agree.....”

As his former teacher, and now someone who already considers him family, if Giuseppe asked for something, as long as it’s nothing excessive, Tatsumi would not refuse.

It certainly wasn’t something easy to agree to, but Giuseppe’s plan was also the road Tatsumi had to take.

That being the case, it would be good to take up this opportunity.

“..... It certainly is an unreasonable request but..... I don’t dislike the content itself..... “

“Hehe. So lovey-dovey.”

Verse said teasingly. Of course, he didn’t forget to nudge Tatsumi with his elbow.

“Th, that’s, what I said earlier.....”

“Yeah, I know. I wanted to go see the jousting tournament finals, but this seems more interesting. But how should I explain this to Nanau?”

“As I thought, should I not tell Nanau?”

“That would be better. She has a pretty loose mouth. Besides, information is information. Women can get excited and unintentionally blurt something out..... that is also possible.”

“Then, is it ok to not tell Miloulle as well.....?”

Tatsumi drew the figures of the girls of the demon beast hunting group in his mind.

“Hmm, what should we do? After all I’m not that close with that person. I can only say to leave it to Tatsumi’s judgement.”

Verse and Miloulle had often met through Tatsumi, and also through Verse’s Lover Nanau who was an employee at[The Elf’s Resthouse].

However, they weren’t acquainted to that extent.

“But, is there a possibility that the story would leak from Miloelle to Nanau.....”

“That’s true, the female group would be excited over a story, if you think about the possibility of information leaking it would be better to not to let them know.”

Tatsumi himself didn’t think Miloulle was such a talkative person, but as Verse said information was information. Again, it would be better if only a few people knew the secret.

“..... It can’t be helped. I feel bad for Miloulle but I’ll keep silent. Will she ask Jadokh to attend the assembly hall on that day?”

Tatsumi decided apologizing to Miloulle in his heart.

“After that..... as a precaution, perhaps it would be better to keep quiet in front of Neez and the other as well? Sargo has an unexpectedly hardened mouth, but Silo is really simple, isn’t he?”

“Yeah, I also agree with that.”

Tatsumi decided without hesitating over Miloulle.

십쌔쌔쌔

A Relief Centre had been established in the courtyard of each Church. During the New Year Festival, the Relief Centre was one of the busiest departments.

There were those who carelessly lost themselves to the festive atmosphere and drank too much, those who broke into fistfights over trivial things, and those who got injured in the jousting match or the Gissh tournament.

In addition to the people suffering various injuries, even lost children were brought to the Relief Centres.

For the Priests accompanying these people, this place was like a battlefield.

In one corner of this battlefield, Calcedonia was administering healing energy to the injured.

“..... Ok, this is alright now. But don’t just say it’s a festival and start fighting like this, ok?”

The middle aged man who was brought to the Savaiv Church’s Relief Centre after getting into a fistfight was smiling embarrassingly while he directly received treatment from the .

“..... weell, I might have gotten carried away in the moment. But, if I can receive treatment from the famous then I don't care how many brawls I get into.”

The man laughed with a ‘hahaha’. Calcedonia sighed and slightly increased the pressure of her treatment on the place of injury – he had been beaten on his left cheek so she was applying painkiller ointment.

“Ouch!”

“Don't get carried away in moment.”

“Y, yeah. No, is also pretty tough, huh. Well then, aren't you disliked by that rumoured fiance of yours?”

The rumour that Calcedonia had gotten engaged to a man from a foreign country with black hair and black eyes, had recently spread all over the Kingdom. It seemed like even this middle aged man had heard this rumour.

“Don't worry. My husband and I are on very friendly terms.”

Calcedonia smiled. The man, fascinated with that smiling face, muttered thoughtlessly.

“No, I'll give up, huh. No way, when she's smitten to this extent.”

The middle aged man said goodbye to Calcedonia and left the Relief Centre.

Seeing him walk out steadily, Calcedonia made sure he won't have any problems and reached out to the next injured person.

An older female priest came approaching and called out to Calcedonia.

“Lady Calcedonia please take a break now. I'll substitute for you here.”

“Is that so? Then, I'll take a break.”

Calcedonia switched places with the older priest and returned to the Relief Centre waiting room.

“Oh, Calsey. You're on a break too?”

“Ah, Lady Calcedonia. You've worked hard-”

When Calcedonia entered the waiting room, the voice that called out came



from a girl with fluffy chestnut colored hair and bluish gray eyes, and a female priest with ash blonde hair and brown eyes who looked to be a bit older than Calcedonia.

The chestnut haired girl was a Junior Priest; meanwhile, the ash blonde haired woman had the holy symbol hanging from her neck showing the status of Acolyte.

“Kuri and Laraina? You guys are also on a break?”

Having found familiar faces, Calcedonia approached the two with a smiling face.

Even if you say waiting room, this place was just a tent mounted in the corner of the Church’s courtyard. Therefore, even though it’s considerably wide, there weren’t a lot of chairs or tables.

Instead of a chair, Kuri and Laraina were sitting on a rug placed on the ground, so Calcedonia also sat down on the rug next to them.

In a familiar manner, Kuri got up and prepared a cup of tea, offering the warm and fragrant cup to Calcedonia.

“But was it good, Lady Calcedonia? Lady Calcedonia’s shift wasn’t supposed to be today.....”

“We are truly grateful for your help. But, aren’t you going to see the festival with the rumoured fiancé?”

Kuri and Laraina were one of the few friends Calcedonia had.

Particularly, Laraina was in the same year as Calcedonia; she came to care about Calcedonia who didn’t have many friends like an older sister, and their relationship has been continuing since then.

On the other hand, Kuri was like Calcedonia’s subordinate, and in the past she had also been entrusted with sending a message to Tatsumi.

“I’m fine. Because, my husband is working this afternoon even if I stay alone at home it can’t be helped. Besides, after my husband gets off work we plan to watch a little bit of the night festival and then return home together.”

Calcedonia smiled happily. Laraina and Kuri spontaneously glanced at each

other after seeing her smiling face.

“..... recently, Lady Calcedonia has changed, huh.”

“That’s true. Before, she never smiled naturally like this. But, I feel a bit bitter that she can speak so fondly. I never thought a day would come when Calsey would speak fondly of a loved one.”

Both Laraina and Kuri had talked to Tatsumi before but they weren’t that close to him.

However, they were well aware of Calcedonia’s feelings, and they also knew that Calcedonia really cherished her fiancé, Tatsumi.

Especially, even when Laraina was cracking jokes her expression would be gentle. Because she knew this, Calcedonia would also not take her words to heart.

“Ufufu. I heard the same thing from those who were injured earlier.”

“Ah-, is that-so”

Laraina shrugged at her amazement.

“If you’re that in love, why not get married quickly without being hindered by engagement?”

“Huh.....? Mar..... riage?”

Without thinking, the fantasy of being married to Tatsumi floated in her head, and Calcedonia immediately turned bright red.

“You’ve already lived together for one year now, why are you being shy now.....?”

Looking at the blushing Calcedonia, Laraina sighed instinctively.

“B, because.....!! O, once again, getting married..... t, that is.....”

“Then, you don’t want to officially get married to that fiancé?”

“Wa, want to get married!! Jeez, that’s enough!!”

Calcedonia replied immediately with her fists clenched and her face blushing bright red.

## Chapter 65 – Preparation in Progress

It was the afternoon on the second day of the New Year's Festival.

Tatsumi and Calcedonia headed together to the Royal Palace's battlefield.

Today, the preliminary contest for the jousting tournament was being held here. Right now, in front of Tatsumi and Calcedonia's gaze, knights clashed with intense energy on their mounts, dressed in resplendent armour and equipped with their lances.

In the jousting match, knights riding their mounts had to literally hit each other facefront; they had to cross over at high speeds and stab their opponent with their lances, and if they managed to dismount their opponent then they would win.

There used to be similar sports on Earth as well, but they naturally were a bit different.

The biggest difference was that the mounts being straddled by the knights were not horses.

What the knights of this country were using as their mounts was a kind of bird, twice the size of an ostrich, with degenerated wings. Compared to an ostrich, this bird had an overall rounder silhouette and was called by the name of Parrow in this country.

And.

"..... Why is the entire coloring like that of a sparrow....."

Tatsumi who saw this parrow for the first time muttered.

The parrow's feathers were white and yellow with black color in some places reminding Tatsumi of a sparrow.

However, it gave off a more domineering impression than a sparrow.

The parrow excelled at speed and endurance, but it's hauling ability was inferior.

For that reason. In the Kingdom of Largofiely, [horse-drawn carriages] didn't

exist, and rather than [bird-drawn carriages][boar-drawn carriages] were generally widespread.

The animal used to pull the boar-drawn carriages was called an Orc, and it literally resembled a Japanese boar.

Speaking of orcs, in Japan the term was commonly used to refer to pig-like human monsters who appeared in many fantasy novels, but in this world orc was apparently used to refer to these boar-like animals.

In the kingdom of Largofield, wild cows or horses were not really used as livestock. Instead, parrots or orcs were actively used as livestock in various fields.

In particular, orcs that resembled a wild boar were seemingly strong and severe, but they had a gentle personality and often got easily attached to people, which is why the previous generations had chosen to domesticate them over wild cows or horses.

By the way, it seemed like higher-ranking nobles had a tendency to prefer bird-drawn carriages rather than boar-drawn ones. In Tatsumi's opinion, the bird-drawn carriages of this country can be said to be similar to foreign luxury cars.

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There was a high-pitched sound of metal hitting metal as one of the knights fell off his gaudily decorated parrot.

The knight who had fallen down slammed his fist on the ground in disappointment. On the contrary, the knight who had won by throwing off his opponent from his parrot, took off his helmet and, with his face exposed, waved at the audience, flaunting his victory.

When the victorious knight made to leave the field proudly, he passed closely by Tatsumi who was sitting in the front of the stands.

“Huh.....? That knight is.....”

That knight was familiar to Tatsumi. On top of that, the first time he met him

was none other than this field.

Apparently, the knight also seemed to notice Tatsumi; he turned and brought his parrow towards the stands with a smiling face.

“Oh, Tatsumi! Did you come to watch the match!”

“Gyle, you’ve won! Congratulations!”

He – Gyle Eutorillos – was a knight who had been hostile to Tatsumi during the accident in this field. However, they had reconciled after that and were now good friends.

“I was able to proceed to tomorrow’s battle without a hitch. If possible, come watch me tomorrow as well.”

“Ah, tomorrow, huh..... tomorrow is that.....”

Tatsumi mumbled while throwing glances at Calcedonia who was at his side. Gyle regarded him curiously while tilting his head.

“Ah, tomorrow I have to do some tasks for the Church..... I, I also wanted to see the jousting finals but.....”

“I see, if it’s a duty for the Church then I guess it can’t be helped. But, I will definitely win the tournament tomorrow! At that time will you treat me to a cup of wine?”

Gyle guessed something from Tatsumi’s manner and left the field while cheerfully laughing and waving his hand.

Tatsumi watched until Gyle’s back disappeared then turned his gaze back to the field.

However, his attention was fixed on his beloved woman who was sitting next to him.

The fresh new year breeze – in this country spring was called ‘the Time of the Sea’ – gently swayed Calcedonia’s silver hair.

Just by that, light danced around her giving her a surreal look.

The bright sunlight illuminated her beauty; Tatsumi wasn’t the only one who felt more dazzled than usual.

As proof, almost all of the young men sitting around them, rather than watching the jousting match, were instead mesmerized by Calcedonia.

And the most eloquent were the pair of eyes as red as rubies. Because of the fresh spring light, her two jewels were shining more brightly than real rubies.

Being together with such a woman must be both proud and embarrassing. While Tatsumi was thinking about these things his eyes suddenly met Calcedonia's.

Apparently, she seemed to have noticed Tatsumi looking at her.

"Is something the matter?"

"N, no, i, it's nothing."

With his face flushing red, Tatsumi hurriedly turned his gaze to the match.

However, in reality, his head was not in the jousting match. His heart was preoccupied by tomorrow's performance that Giuseppe had mentioned before.

When he thought about tomorrow's event his stomach felt like a hole had opened up in it. If he failed Giuseppe's performance tomorrow then the humiliation would be unjustifiable.

Surely if Calcedonia was his partner then Tatsumi didn't think he would fail. But, for some reason... his mind unintentionally jumped to the worst case scenarios.

However, along with the nervousness, there was also the part where his chest was swelling in anticipation.

While thinking about tomorrow, feeling both nervous and excited, Tatsumi let out a deep sigh.

After they finished watching the jousting match, Tatsumi and Calcedonia snuggled up together and wandered around the town that had been draped in festivity.

The two admired and handed out silver coins to the acrobats or minstrels performing at the street corner; they bought and ate food from the stalls and enjoyed it together.

The two of them aimlessly entered a shop and enjoyed some fruit wine; they went about enjoying the festival without a care.

Then when the sun set, they finally made their way back to their house.

In the Kingdom of Largofiely where there wasn't any electricity, the sunset basically signified the end of the day.

With the exception of the red-light district, when you couldn't get enough light it was normal to fall asleep early in the night.

However, it was different just during the festival. During the festival period fires were kept burning in the town, the hustle and bustle doesn't die out even at night.

As expected, it's not like the days in present age Japan, but compared to the usual it was quite lively even after the sunset.

Even after returning home, constant noise could be heard coming from the outside.

"..... Seeing a lively night like this..... it's been a long time."

This was the norm when he used to be in Japan.

24 hours open shops used to overflow the city, and the streetlights would light up the streets all night.

There were people walking about even at midnight, it was place that could easily be called 'a city that never sleeps.'

"That's right. I also remember. The city I used to live in with husband... no, with master... it really was lively, even at night..."

Standing besides Tatsumi who was gazing at the town from the window, Calcedonia gently rested her head on his shoulder.

Although it's not clear, but she also remembers.

The sound of the engine of cars passing through the road at night. The electricity would make the inside of the house light up like day, with the TV turned on lively programs would broadcast even late at night. At times the siren of police car, ambulances or fire trucks would get annoying.

The two of them compared the night of the festival with Japan, and while clutching each other's hands gazed out at the city that never sleeps.

The next morning. It was the last day of the New Years Festival.

Because the festival would end today, the city had been lively since early morning.

As usual, Tatsumi finished eating the breakfast that Calcedonia made and then left for his morning guard duty at the Church.

"Ok then, I'm leaving!"

"Best of luck with your work. I'll prepare the lunch so let's eat together at the usual place in the Church."

Tatsumi waved at Calcedonia, who would remain at the house in the morning, and headed for the Church.

However, halfway through Tatsumi parted from the road leading to the Church and made his way towards the opposite direction.

Tatsumi was slowly getting farther and farther away from the Church, but his steps didn't waver at all.

And so, the place Tatsumi arrived at was a tavern he knew really well. On the sign displayed next to the entrance were the usual words〔The Elf's Resthouse〕written in Japanese.

Tatsumi went in with a nervous look; he found Eru behind the counter and approached her.

"Ah, Tatsumi, welcome. I have been waiting for you."

The lady of the shop greeted with a smile like always. After recognizing Tatsumi, she quickly came out from the bar and returned to the shop.

She was holding some sort of package in her arms.

"Here are the prepared outfits. But, as expected, there really is a clothing shop that the Patriarch of the Savaiv Church introduced—. To make it so accurately to the picture I showed."

The clothes Eru spread out while saying so, were of a design that had yet to



be seen in the Kingdom of Largofiely. However, it was familiar to Tatsumi.

However, actually he too had not yet had the experience of donning this outfit.

“Calsey’s dress as well, Ohariko and the others who’ve often frequented the Duke of Quartz’s household, put in all their efforts and finished it according to the picture I showed them.”

“Thank you Eru. You’ve really helped me out this time.”

“It’s fine; don’t think anything of it. Ah, I will bring the costumes to Savaiv Church, but please take just this by yourself.”

While saying this, Eru took out a small box. This was also custom-made by one of Eru’s craftsmen friends.

This small box was also familiar to Tatsumi and Eru who had experience of living in Japan.

“After the ceremony, I’ll have a seat prepared in this shop so please look forward to it.”

“Ahaha. Is that the so called after party..... Uh, somehow this is too much pressure.....”

Tatsumi made a glum face and clutched his stomach with one hand.

“Fufufu..... speaking of, Yasutaka... no, my husband who passed away also said the same thing on the morning of that day.”

Thinking of the past, Eru smiled a bit nostalgically.

Bowing his head to Eru, Tatsumi once again left〔The Elf’s Resthouse〕and headed for the Church.

Tatsumi left the store through the front entrance. Watching his back, Eru felt gripped by a strange feeling she’d never felt before.

“..... Could it be, this is how mothers feel when they send off their sons into their adulthood?”

Eru muttered in a voice no one could hear.

Eru hadn’t had any children with her husband. Naturally, during the 200 years

of her life, until now she had never had this kind of feelings before.

That's why Eru.

Wanting to but never been able to become a [mother], from the bottom of her heart, felt grateful to Tatsumi who, even by a little bit, had let her experience such feelings.

# Chapter 66 – Application

It was the last day of the New Years Festival. That afternoon.

The chapel of the Savaiv Church was overflowing with mothers or fathers holding the children born this year.

In the kingdom of Largofiely, the mortality rate of infants was by no means low. It was different from present age Japan where even premature babies had a high probability of being brought up safely.

For that reason, it was an important act for parents who wished for the safe upbringing of their children to pray daily to the Savaiv God to ensure their child grows up healthy.

And so, today. The Patriarch of the Savaiv sect was asking the Savaiv God to give his divine protection for both nobles and the masses alike, without any discrimination; therefore, it was only reasonable for parents to gather there holding their children.

That said, the Patriarch doesn't actually use any magic. He just prays to the God for the growth of the children, and then one by one gives the God's blessings to the children. That was the only ritual.

Still, there were no parents who didn't wish for the blessings of the Savaiv God for their children; there were lots of parents visiting the Savaiv Church along with their children.

Among them there weren't only women with babies, but pregnant women with huge bellies were also present. In order for their child to be born in good health, they had come to ask the Patriarch to bestow God's divine protection on them.

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Eventually, the Patriarch of Savaiv Church, Giuseppe Chrysophrase appeared in the chapel.

He was dressed in the ceremonial robe of priests which was decorated extravagantly with gold and silver thread. He was holding a staff in his hand which showed the rank of Patriarch, and was walking in dignity exuding grand majesty.

The gathered people naturally closed their mouths and bowed deeply at the entrance of the Patriarch which cannot be seen normally.

Behind the Patriarch, several other priests, dressed in similar ceremonial robes, were following. Among them, there was also the famed {Holy Maiden}; the faces of the people gathered in the chapel lit up when they realised they could get greater protection in today's ritual.

Then, Giuseppe, who had reached the altar of the chapel, announced the commencement of the ritual in a sonorous voice.

While the ritual went on quietly, Calcedonia surveyed the chapel in curiosity.

Armed Templars could be seen in various places around the chapel. However, that wasn't a strange occurrence. In a ceremony like this, other than the Patriarch Giuseppe, it was also natural to see Templars stationed around for security.

The reason she was curious was because Tatsumi's figure was not present among the Templars.

When they ate lunch together at noon, he was certainly armed up in the Templar gear. He had been patrolling the town all morning so that was to be expected. Verse, who had been patrolling together with him, was also armed in a similar manner.

Also, Tatsumi had also said that he was asked to help out in this ceremony by Giuseppe. That's why Calcedonia had thought that Tatsumi would be recruited for the security.

"..... Husband, where are you?"

Even though the ritual was going on, her eyes kept darting out to search for Tatsumi's form.

Calcedonia's gaze wandered around the chapel.

“Ahem.”

An older priest standing next to her cleared his throat. Of course, that was to caution Calcedonia who was being restless.

Calcedonia quickly brought her attention back to the ritual.

But, speaking of the result, it did not succeed.

Because, among all people gathered here, she ended up finding the person who was not supposedly not present.

“Ah. Calsey, you seem to have noticed us.”

Jadokh, who had a keen eye, definitely saw Calcedonia’s eyes widen at the altar.

“Ufufu. She’s surprised. She’s surprised. Her face is asking why we’re here.”

“Hey, Jadokh. ‘Why are we here’ is what I’m wondering as well?”

Miloulle looked around with a pout.

There were lots of young couples with babies around them. Clearly, unmarried people without any children were not present as that would be out-of-place.

In fact, they would occasionally get inquisitive glances from the people in the vicinity.

“..... Could it be, Calcedonia misunderstood that I’m also pregnant?”

The possibility of that being quite likely, Miloulle grumbled out.

“So? Why did you bring me here? Can’t you tell me the reason now?”

“Actually, I was asked by Tatsumi to do so. He said he’d like me and Miloulle to come to this ceremony.”

“Tatsumi? Why? Did you hear anything, Jadokh?”

“Yeah, I did. But right now it’s a sec-ret. You’ll understand soon enough so wait a bit.”

While the two were busy in this, a familiar voice came from behind them.

“Ah, Jadokh and Miloulle? Why are you two here?”

At their name being called, they turned around and saw Verse and his lover Nanau, who worked at The Elf's Resthouse.

"Oh, you guys..... the two of you here together, don't tell me....."

Milolle's gaze moved to Nanau's abdomen. There was no need to explain what her gaze was investigating.

"You're mistaken. We were also called here by Tatsumi."

"Huh? You guys were called by Tatsumi too?"

Verse and Jadokh who knew the reason for being called nodded with a meaningful smile.

However, Nanau and Miloulle, who didn't know the reason, just gave a curious look to each other.

While they were absorbed in such feelings, the ceremony for blessing the babies approached the last stage.

Jadokh, Miloulle, Verse and Nanau were talking to each other.

Jolt was in the same chapel as well.

Gyle was also present, standing beside Jolt in plain clothes with only a sword strapped by his hip.

Gyle kept repeatedly scratching his face as if itching the gauze attached to his face with ointment.

"Are you okay, Gyle? It was a pretty awful injury, wasn't it?"

"Your Highn..... No, Lord Jolt. My injury was treated by the priest stationed at the field of the match so I'm feeling better now."

"When why are you being so restless like this?"

"Th, that is....."

It was nothing big. Yesterday, Gyle who had declared boastfully to Tatsumi that he would win the jousting championship, was easily defeated in the first match; that's why it was difficult to face Tatsumi now.

"Putting that aside, I wonder what will happen now..... You heard, right?"

“Ah... I already heard from Captain Taülorde.....”

“If so, you have to witness your friend’s crucial gamble with your own eyes.”

“Th, that’s right. The fact that I lost in the jousting tournament has nothing to do with Tatsumi’s upcoming gamble.”

“Well, it certainly is a gamble, but we can already see the end result can’t we.”

“Indeed.”

The two of them laughed in enjoyment.

But, they failed to notice one thing this time.

In this chapel where there were only young couples with children or pregnant women, what kind of impression did the pair of young men smiling happily give off?

The mothers standing near them whispered suspiciously about the two’s relationship.

Let’s say it was fortunate that the two of them were blissfully ignorant to this.

“—with the blessings of Savaiv God, may the futures of this person be brightly illuminated.”

While muttering the prayer, Giuseppe granted the God’s blessings by placing his fingertip, dipped in the holy water, on the forehead of the child being carried by its mother.

This was the last baby of today; the parents whose children had gotten the blessings from the Patriarch got ready to leave the Chapel.

However, after the ceremony finished, the Patriarch suddenly started speaking. The people crowding the chapel halted their steps.

“Today’s ceremony has now come to an end, but, actually we have another event. If possible, I’d like those who have time to stay here for a while.”

They couldn’t ignore the words of the Patriarch of the Savaiv group; the halted people began talking noisily with those nearby.

It wasn’t just the parents who had gathered here that were doing so, the

priests waiting behind Giuseppe were also in a similar state.

“Oi, did you hear of this plan from His Grace?”

“No, I didn’t heard anything about it.....”

“Lady Calcedonia. Did you hear about this from His Grace?”

“N, no, I also didn’t hear anything from grandfather.....”

Calcedonia, who was holding the small metal pot containing the Holy Water that had been used during the ceremony, was asked by the nearby High Priests, but she just shook her head.

Actually, that was only natural since she hadn’t heard anything about it.

Giuseppe continued speaking while Calcedonia and the priests were left bewildered.

“As you all know, our Savaiv God is the God of fertility, children and, at the same time, the Protector God of marriages. This time we got a request from a certain young man. This young man has a precious woman, and today, at this place, he wants to convey something important to this precious woman.”

Giuseppe’s voice reached every nook and cranny of the chapel. One of the priests standing behind him was using〈Wind〉magic to spread the voice to the distance.

“As the Patriarch of the Savaiv Church..... no, as one of the servants of the Savaiv God, I have decided to support the back of this young man. Calcedonia Chrysophrase.”

“Y, yes!!”

Calcedonia startled in surprise when her name was suddenly called.

“Come over here.”

Beckoned by her grandfather, the Patriarch, she walked to Giuseppe’s side without really understanding.

The fact that she was still holding the pot that contained the Holy Water was proof that she too was feeling confused.

“Now..... then, shall I call the young man here now?”



When Giuseppe sent a signal, the Templars waiting by the entrance of the chapel opened up the doors.

The people present in the chapel, parents and their children, officials of the Savaiv Church, and a few people who knew what was going on, all turned their gaze towards the opened doors.

And then.

A lone young man was standing behind the doors.

The young man was wearing white clothes of a design that had never been seen before, but his face was, in contrast, bright red.

“Huh? Huh? Hu, husba...nd?”

Calcedonia figured out it was Tatsumi and reflexively looked at him in surprise.

Tatsumi, wearing clothes – a white tuxedo— that had never been seen before, stepped towards the altar where Giuseppe and Calcedonia were standing.

As he advanced, the people crowding the chapel parted to make way as if to guide him to his destination.

On the way, people he knew stuck out their thumbs and cheered, while others looked at him dumbfoundedly; Tatsumi nodded towards them showing his resolution.

Tatsumi was guided to the altar by Giuseppe and he stood there in front of a certain person with a blushing red face.

This was of course.

“U, umm..... Husband? Th, this is unity.....”

He was standing in front of a flustered Calcedonia who still didn’t know what was going on.

“Ca, Calse..... N, no..... Calcedonia Chrysophrase!”

His face was still flaming red. But, his sight shot directly towards Calcedonia’s.

While all the people have quieted down, Tatsumi uttered the words that would settle his destiny.

“W, with me..... right now, at this place..... marry me!!”

Clang.

A small sound resounded around the chapel.

That was the sound of the pot, that contained the Holy Water, that Calcedonia was holding falling down and hitting the floor.

# Chapter 67 – Curse

After that small metal sound, there was a loud cheer from the people that gathered.

Just like with Giuseppe, the wind magic user used his magic to amplify Tatsumi's proposal of marriage all over the chapel.

Therefore, the gathered people could understand what Tatsumi had just said to Calcedonia.

However, the reason why the people cheered was not because of Tatsumi's wedding proposal to Calcedonia.

The reaction Calcedonia showed to Tatsumi's proposal was the real reason why the people present in this place started cheering.

“Will you.....right now, right here...marry me!?”

As soon as Tatsumi said those words, the pot containing the Holy Water dropped down from Calcedonia's hands— No, she threw it away and jumped without hesitation...

Towards Tatsumi's chest.

And while rubbing her forehead against Tatsumi's chest, she nodded silently with tears flowing down.

Naturally, it was clear to the gathered people what that silent gesture of Calcedonia's meant.

The Holy Maiden responded to the proposal from the foreign man.

To that fact, the crowd started cheering loudly without even thinking.

On the chapel's altar, the two snuggled close to each other while being watched over by the Patriarch of the Savaiv God, the Guardian God of marriage.

Feeling Calcedonia's feelings calm down, Tatsumi gently pulled back a little from her body.

“I... still haven't been here for long. That's why, I don't know the marriage

customs of this place... um, and that is why... I want to do it in the way of my country... Of course, I've already got Giuseppe's approval."

Giuseppe nodded gently when Calcedonia turned her eyes to him.

To tell the truth, the marriage ceremony in Largofielly was pretty simple.

Earlier, when Tatsumi had talked about wedding ceremonies in Japan, Giuseppe had shown a great interest in it.

Perhaps, Giuseppe had been contemplating on it since that time.

He must have wanted to someday hold a Japanese style wedding ceremony that Tatsumi had talked about. Also, someday he wanted it to take root in this country as well. Tatsumi could understand that Giuseppe, who unexpectedly liked gaudy things, would think like this.

That's why he said it would also be good for you guys to do a test case yourselves.

To be honest, Tatsumi also felt that way. However, if Calcedonia was happy so far, then he could somewhat endure those embarrassing thoughts.

When Tatsumi was thinking so, about 2 elderly female priests came up to them.

"As this young man said earlier, from now on we will carry out the marriage ceremony for these two in accordance with the custom of his hometown. Calcedonia is going to marry this young man—Tatsumi. Then, it can be said that it's also natural to follow the marriage customs of the groom's family."

Standing on the altar, Giuseppe explained to the gathered people.

While he was doing so, the still-overcome-with-tears Calcedonia left the chapel together with the female priests.

"From here on, the bride is going to step down for a moment and prepare her outfit. Well, as usual, it takes time for a woman to get ready. I'd appreciate it if everyone can wait patiently. By the way, this is what's called 'makeover' in Tatsumi's country."

At Giuseppe's joking words, laughter rose up from the audience.

Strictly speaking, Calcedonia was not really going through a makeover right now. But, it was pretty close to one; Tatsumi had thought there was no need to go this far into strictly follow Japanese customs.

In the first place, Tatsumi himself was not that familiar with the wedding customs.

He was just a high school student in Japan. Because he didn't have that many relatives, he hadn't had that many opportunities to attend weddings.

After waiting for a while.

The entrance of the chapel opened once again and the people who were there suddenly pulled in their breaths.

The young man waiting on the altar was the same; a woman wearing a white wedding dress of an unfamiliar design was standing there.

Her platinum hair was coiffed in a complicated style and was decorated with a lace veil.

The neckline was wide open, emphasizing her ample breasts and revealing a deep cleavage;

The skirt made from abundant drapes and laces fell gently, starting from the slender waist and ended at the feet. In some places, the skirt was inlaid with jewels and corsages that reflected the light from all around the chapel and lit up with glittering magical lights.

Long lace gloves adorned her slender arms up to the elbows. She was holding a bouquet in her hands which was, once again, familiar to Tatsumi but was not found in this country.

The spectators, who were seeing a bride wearing a completely white wedding dress for the first time, were completely speechless at the bride's beauty.

In this country of Largofiely, there was no wedding dress.

Although they wore a formal dress at the occasion of getting married, there was no custom of preparing a dress specially for a wedding ceremony.

The ceremony was also quite simple; they pledged marriage to God and then the bride and bridegroom put on earrings as a proof of their marriage and it

would end with that. If they were engaged, they would exchange earrings with each other and wear it in the opposite ear; thus, the marriage would be regarded as completed.

The ceremony itself was just that, afterwards they would go to a bar or the home of a family member or a friend to have a party. That was the general wedding custom in this country.

However, recently, you can easily have a ceremony in front of God in Japan as well, and there are also cases where lavish reception parties are held afterwards.

The people of this country, who didn't know about things such as bridal dresses, were unable to take off their eyes from Calcedonia who was clad in a wedding dress.

The person escorting her to the altar was her adoptive brother, Taülorde, dressed in formal clothes. Originally, it should have been Giuseppe's duty as her adoptive father to escort her to the altar, but this time Giuseppe was conducting the ceremony that's why this role was handed over to the brother.

With her face covered, the bride walked slowly within the chapel escorted by her brother.

The people let out sighs at the beauty of the bride clad in pure white clothes as she walked past.

Eventually, the bride arrived at the altar where the groom was waiting.

Calcedonia, wrapped up in a wedding dress, was standing in front of him. Tatsumi gazed at her in amazement.

Calcedonia tilted her head at Tatsumi's lack of words. Noticing that, Tatsumi finally opened his mouth.

"...As I thought, Calsey is beautiful."

"Huh?"

"Since I first came to this country and met Calsey for the first time, I've always been thinking that Calsey is pretty. But... I never thought that Calsey wearing a wedding dress would be this beautiful... And, this beautiful Calsey is my bride..."

Honestly, I still can't believe it."

Because she was directly hit by Tatsumi's straightforward praise, Calcedonia suddenly blushed bright red.

But she smiled immediately after.

"What are you saying? Ever since I was born... No, even before I was born, haven't I always belonged to you?"

"Yeah, that's right. From the beginning, Calsey was my Calsey."

In the silent chapel, only the two's conversation resounded.

At this moment, Tatsumi and Calcedonia, both of them, were just thinking about each other and had completely forgotten.

The fact that their conversation right now was being resonated all over the chapel thanks to the wind wizard.

Afterwards, Tatsumi would faint in embarrassment after hearing about this from Verse or Jadokh, but that's a story for later.

On top of that, the fact that Tatsumi would receive the magical recording as a gift from Giuseppe, who was secretly filming the scene with magic, and then faint once again after watching it, was also a story for later.

On top of that on top of that, minstrels and actors would be passing on today's scene to the later generation as a musical called "The Wedding;" the current interaction between Tatsumi and Calcedonia would be the most famous scene in "The Wedding" and that it will be handed down to the coming future generations, but this was, again, also a story for later.

The marriage— no, the wedding ceremony went on smoothly.

The lines Giuseppe said, as the executor of the ceremony, were a bit different, but were more or less similar to those of Japanese wedding ceremonies.

Regarding this, it seems like it was meticulously prepared with Eru, as introduced by Tatsumi and Giuseppe, in an advance meeting.

Eru's knowledge, who had the experience of getting married herself, as well as having been present at her friend's wedding, could be said to have been the

most useful.

And so, at last the wedding ceremony reached its climax.

Speaking of the climax of a Largofiely wedding ceremony, it's the exchange of earrings as a proof of marriage.

However, this time it was a Japanese style ceremony, that's why the exchange of earrings was not carried out.

Tatsumi turned towards Calcedonia and pulled out a small box from his pocket.

The box held in his palm was wrapped in a fine, fleece fabric. This was also a familiar thing to Tatsumi who was a Japanese, but the people of Largofiely were seeing this for the first time.

Tatsumi turned to Calcedonia and opened the small box.

"...Is it a...ring?"

As Calcedonia had said, inside the box were two rings of the same design, one small and one big.

"Yeah. In my country, wearing a ring on the ring finger of your left hand is a proof for marriage."

The two rings were simply made of platinum with no particular decorations.

Unlike engagement rings, wedding rings are not embellished with precious stones, or they often only embed tiny gems in the rings.

There were various opinions on this but it was also said that if gems pop out then it would become a hindrance for the daily chores.

"All right, Calsey, give me your left hand."

"..... Yes."

Calcedonia nervously held out her left hand towards Tatsumi. Tatsumi gently held that hand and tenderly slid the small ring onto the slender finger.

Of course, there was no such thing as a wrong size. This group had done diligent research beforehand.



Calcedonia gazed fixedly at the radiance of the platinum ring that shining brightly at the base of her ring finger.

“Now, Calsey, will you... put this ring on my finger?”

“Yes... Of course.”

Calcedonia picked up the bigger ring and slid it onto the ring finger of Tatsumi’s left hand.

The rings on her and Tatsumi’s hands were of the same design. Seeing that, an unfaltering happiness began to bubble up in Calcedonia’s heart.

“Calsey... this means I just placed a curse on you, okay?”

“A... curse?”

“Yes. With this, Calsey cannot escape from the spell that is me. I also don’t intend to let Calsey escape... In other words, I have put a curse on Calsey that cannot be undone for eternity.”

Although, at first Calcedonia’s face stared at him blankly, but after understanding what Tatsumi wanted to say her ruby eyes once again overflowed with tears.

Of course, these weren’t tears of sadness.

“...Yes. If it’s such a happy curse...Then I’ll happily get cursed. But...I’m also going to have to place the same curse on my husband, won’t I?”

“Ah, I don’t mind. If it’s Calsey’s curse then I will also happily accept it.”

The both of them moved closer in their embrace... and then, their lips met each other’s.

Giuseppe, who had, until then, been watching the exchange silently, turned towards the audience and made a declaration.

“Now, at this time, I declare these two man and wife! This has also been recognized by Savaiv, and the bond of this couple will not be cut down for eternity! Now, bless the two once again!”

At the same time as the end of Giuseppe’s words, the bells of the Savaiv church resounded a majestic sound.

Also, the people who were present in that place started clapping loudly so as not to lose to the sound of the bells.

And thus.

Tatsumi and Calcedonia became a married couple with the blessings of all these people.

The statue of the Savaiv God watched over the two as they broke their kiss but still stayed in a tight embrace.

The people who participated in this ceremony would later wonder that the statue, that was always expressionless, for some reason looked very gentle on that day.

# Chapter 68 – Like a Dream

On the last day of the New Year's Festival. The sun had sunk completely.

Although it was the last day of the Festival as well, the town was still lively.

Various households were making merry with the neighborhood people gathered in them; in bars, the gathered customers clamoured about and drank with each other.

Tatsumi and Calcedonia were slowly walking towards their home in the streets of such a lively town.

Calcedonia's left arm was draped around Tatsumi's right without letting go. On the ring finger of that arm, the ring she had gotten from Tatsumi earlier that day, gleamed like a flickering fire.

Of course, Tatsumi's left hand had the same shine. Also, the two were wearing earrings of the same set on their ears which had been on the opposite side until yesterday.

They had put them on each other when they had finally gotten engaged, it was a result of their consultation to have not just rings but also to keep wearing these earrings.

They walked without exchanging any words—no, there was no need to exchange any words.

The lamps flickered in the night breeze. The bustling sounds flew on that night breeze.

However, Tatsumi and Calcedonia's minds were mainly occupied by each other's body heat.

Calcedonia and Tatsumi officially became a married couple.

Up until a few moments ago, a banquet celebrating their marriage was held at The Elf's Resthouse.

Close friends of Tatsumi and Calcedonia had assembled there.

Other than Verse, Nanau, Jadokh, Milouille, Laraina and Kuri, there were also Eru's employees of The Elf's Resthouse and the regulars who came and went.

Neez and the others who could not come to the ceremony due to guard duties also came running; the banquet was celebrated grandly.

Having heard from somewhere, Jolt and Gyle also participated and had their fill of the food Eru was carrying in her arms.

Of course, they celebrated the marriage of Tatsumi and Calcedonia with the bottom of their hearts.

For entertainment, Laraina put up a performance with the lalaena, a musical instrument that had the same pronunciation as her name. And like some time ago, Eru and Calcedonia sang Japanese songs as Tatsumi played the music.

By the way, Laraina's father was a music instructor and named her after the tools of the trade when she was born so that she doesn't go astray. Laraina, who had been trained by her father, gave a considerably good performance.

They also received somewhat rough blessings from the familiar faces of the demonic beast hunters, but they too blessed the marriage of Tatsumi and Calcedonia from the bottom of their hearts.

"..... This..... isn't a dream, right?"

Calcedonia was walking while tightly holding onto Tatsumi.

If I let go of his hand now, I might wake up from the happy dream I've been having so far. This was the crisis going on inside her mind.

However, her lover's voice quickly dispersed the thorn in her heart.

"It's not a dream. We are...Calcedonia and I are a married couple from today."

It had been about a year since Tatsumi was summoned to this world. It has also been a year since the two of them started living together.

Because they had been living together for more than a year, there was no new differences now that they had gotten married.

But still, from today the two were certainly different from yesterday.

"...Well, we can say that we were caught up in Giuseppe's scheme, but..."

“Could it be...you’re having regrets?”

“Hahaha, no way. I don’t even have an atom of regret in me.”

They turned their faces to each other—Calcedonia then looked up, and Tatsumi then looked down—they both giggled at each other.

“But, it was also troublesome for my grandfather. He’d wanted to do a flashy event at the festival so much, even if me and husband didn’t get involved it would have been fine.....”

After the wedding, Calcedonia heard about everything from Tatsumi at the place of the banquet, The Elf’s Resthouse.

Today’s plan was all Giuseppe’s doing, and a lot of people had been in the know. The young man walking with her was also one of them.

“Isn’t it fine. From now on, every year a new couple will probably be born like me and Chiiko.”

It seemed like Giuseppe intended to carry out this plan next year as well.

It may be embarrassing to propose marriage in front of the public, but if the Patriarch of the Savaiv God gave out blessings regardless of social class then there will probably be many people who wish to participate in this scheme next year.

It could be said that from the point of contemporary Japan, it was like being able to freely hold a wedding ceremony at a first-class hotel.

There may be people who participate while having decided on marriage in advance, people who take this chance to confess to someone of the opposite sex, people who participate expecting to be rejected, or there may also be people who use it for advertising or something. Even so, surely there would be no people who wouldn’t hope to participate.

What kind of people would come after themselves? Tatsumi looked like he was having a little fun.

“..... No, is it Verse and Nanau next?”

At today’s banquet at The Elf’s Resthouse, Verse and Nanau were constantly bombarded with “it’s you guys next,” from their surroundings.

Tatsumi smiled, remembering the two who had been embarrassed but seemed happy.

That was when the wedding of Tatsumi and Calcedonia came to a successful ending.

The bride and bridegroom exited from the chapel.

The gathered people separated left and right and made a flower shaped road for the exiting bride and groom.

Tatsumi and Calcedonia walked slowly towards the exit, arm in arm, on that flower road.

The people congratulated the couple with applause and whistles.

The friends of the bride and groom were among the front rows of those people.

Tatsumi, who saw the goblin woman next to Verse gazing at Calcedonia with shining eyes, softly whispered in Calcedonia's ears.

Smiling gently, Calcedonia stepped away from Tatsumi for a bit.

And, the one she turned to was obvious.

"Huh...? Calcedonia...?"

Nanau blinked her eyes in surprise at Calcedonia who, suddenly separating from Tatsumi, was now standing in front of her.

Calcedonia smiled and presented the thing in her hand to such a Nanau.

"Her, take this, Nanau."

"Huh? Huh? By this, you mean the...bundle of flowers?"

"Yes. This is called a 'bookay' in my husband's country's words. And, in my husband's country, whoever gets the bride's 'bookay' is said to become the next bride. That's why...this is for Nanau."

Originally, the bride's bouquet is thrown behind her, but in this country where no one knows about bouquets, that is not necessary.

Sensing that, Tatsumi had asked Calcedonia to hand over the bouquet to

Nanau.

“T-Thank you!”

Nanau happily took the bouquet and smiled at Verse who was beside her.

Verse also expressed his thanks to Calcedonia, and showed a thumbs-up to Tatsumi.

Tatsumi answered with the same gesture when Calcedonia strolled back.

Once again, Calcedonia wrapped her arm around Tatsumi's.

And so, the bride and groom left the chapel surrounded by applause.

There was a horse-drawn carriage waiting for them when they left the chapel. It didn't have a roof; speaking in terms of a car it could be said to be a convertible with the roof detracted.

And, Eru was sitting on the driver's seat of the carriage. She was also dressed as a butler, wearing male uniform.

“Huh, Eru...? And the horse carriage...”

Tatsumi was surprised. Looking at Tatsumi, Eru laughed.

“The wife of the predecessor of the Duke of Quartz's household specially prepared this horse carriage for today. Come, get on. We're going to The Elf's Resthouse on this.”

“Umm..... there are lots of things I want to ask you..... Eru, are you experienced as a coachman? Also, why are you dressed as a butler?”

“Hehehehe. It's because, even though I look like this, I am an adventurer! And when you speak of a coachman, isn't it the same as a butler?”

Eru pumped out her chest while saying so. Apparently, in Eru's world, adventurers could also be coachmen. Besides that, she seems to have weird conceptions about butlers.

Eru jumped down from the driver's seat and opened the door of the carriage, and acting like a real butler, ushered the two inside.

“Here you go. Because you two are the main characters of today.”

Tatsumi and Calcedonia looked at each other. They suddenly smiled and decided to take this as a favour from Eru and Elysia.

Tatsumi got on the carriage first and then stretched his arm out and pulled Calcedonia up.

In contemporary Japan, no, in the world, the custom was to let the woman get on first. But the carriage of this world had a higher seat so, in this situation, the man would get on and get off first and then lend a hand to the woman to get on or off.

Being drawn up by Tatsumi, Calcedonia got into the carriage without even worrying about the hem of her wedding dress.

At that moment, it goes without saying that she was extremely happy.

After affirming that the two had gotten on the carriage, Eru grabbed the reins and set off the carriage.

With a clatter, the carriage slowly ran through the streets of Levantes which were bustling with the festival.

If carriage had the crest of the duke's household, and the one driving it was a beautiful woman – in other words, Eru – dressed as a man, there was no way it would not draw attention. Moreover, since there wasn't any roof on the carriage, the people riding inside were also visible.

The two young people inside were wearing unfamiliar costumes of a tuxedo and a wedding dress. But, looking closely it would immediately become known to the public that the woman was the "Holy Maiden of the Savaiv Church." 숲쌔쌔쌔

And as for the man, judging by the characteristic black hair and black eyes it was also easy to deduce that he was the recently rumoured partner of the Holy Maiden.

People who saw the carriage pass slowly through the town whispered with those around as to what it could mean.

At that time, someone started telling about how the two had just had a marriage ceremony at the Savaiv Church.



“This quick spreading of information is...definitely the work of Giuseppe or Elysia...”

Tatsumi who heard the audible conversations of the people, instinctively came to that conclusion. It was those two who would actually do such a thing.

Probably, a subordinate of Giuseppe or Elysia were spread out among the masses and announcing that the two had gotten married.

“Come now, how about Tatsumi and Calcedonia wave their hands at everyone?”

Eru turned back from her seat at the front and told the two. Tatsumi suddenly understood that thing.

“Eru...did you, perhaps, got some suggestions from Giuseppe?”

She stuck her tongue out cutely. “I was found out?”

The parade after a wedding was a scene often seen on Earth, regardless of country. It was no wonder that Giuseppe, having heard about it from Eru, was interested in it.

“I’m not a celebrity, nor a royalty of any country.....That’s right, I guess I am a person who was trapped by Giuseppe.”

Apparently, there was a part in Giuseppe’s trick that even Tatsumi didn’t know about.

Tatsumi shrugged his shoulders and smiled bitterly.

And with a big sigh, he turned to Calcedonia.

“Well it’s already become this desperate! Okay, Calsey, wave your hands.”

“Ummm...Like...this?”

After being told by Tatsumi, Calcedonia turned towards the town’s people and waved her hands. Yet, Tatsumi himself didn’t wave his hands, so it can be said he was a bit cunning.

Well, rather than Tatsumi waving his hands, it would look better if Calcedonia to wave hers.

People in the town looked curiously at the slowly walking carriage.

The Holy Maiden was sitting on the carriage in an unfamiliar but beautiful white dress. The people who looked at the Holy Maiden smiling and waving, were captivated by the glamour and beauty. Also, they cheered loudly when they heard she had married the black haired, black eyed man next to her.

The people who heard they had gotten married, murmured words of blessings from their mouths.

This way, they got blessings from the people of the town as well. The carriage maneuvered by Eru slowly made its way to The Elf's Resthouse.

This time, I wonder if the excitement is still continuing at The Elf's Resthouse.

Tatsumi thought while he walked towards their house with Calcedonia.

The two were the main characters at today's banquet, but they were urged to go home by everybody.

Probably, someone got the wrong idea. There was also a magic beast hunter who bluntly told Tatsumi "Good luck tonight!"

As one might expect, they could not just walk in a tuxedo and a wedding dress so they had changed their clothes at The Elf's Resthouse.

The two of them had been walking slowly to enjoy the time spent together, but still the goal was coming closer.

Tatsumi and Calcedonia saw their house come into their view.

".....We've arrived..."

Calcedonia murmured quietly. Apparently, it was regrettable that the time they spent together was coming to an end.

A little sad air flew between them.

Tatsumi gently pulled out his arm that had been entangled with Calcedonia's, and wrapped it around her shoulders pulling her to himself.

"..... Husband?"

Calcedonia's face went blank. Tatsumi smiled gently while looking down at that face.

"We haven't arrived. We're just starting from here. From today..... my

relationship with Chiiko.”

“Husband.....”

“Once again..... Take care of me, my wife.”

“Y-Yes!! Same here, please take care of me!!”

Calcedonia’s face shined with happiness after being called “wife” by Tatsumi.

And then, they suddenly touched their lips together – just then.

“Ah, you’ve finally come back? Hey, hey, Tatsumi and Calsey are back!”

With that voice, people from their neighbourhood came crawling out of the nearby houses.

Of course, there’s no need to say that they separated as if flung apart.

The people surrounded Tatsumi and Calcedonia with a smile.

“I heard! You guys have finally really become husband and wife?”

“Why didn’t you tell us about today’s ceremony? If you told us then we would have prepared even better celebrations.”

“Well, they also have various stuff to do, surely.”

It looked like their neighbours had also heard about their marriage and made arrangements to celebrate it.

“Since it was so sudden we couldn’t prepare anything big, but it’s a celebration from our hearts. Then, come here.”

The wife of the neighbour that Tatsumi also knows really well, grabbed their hands and took them to her house. This was probably the place of the next banquet.

While their hand was being pulled by the wife, Tatsumi and Calcedonia smiled at each other.

Today, how many times had they smiled at each other like this? No, from now on, how many times will they smile at each other?

Without worrying about whether or not that would be fun or worrying, Tatsumi and Calcedonia entered the place of the new banquet.

It seems like it was going to be a while before Tatsumi and Calcedonia would be able to be together.

# Chapter 69 – Side Story: Supporting You

This is at the time when Tatsumi and Calcedonia's engagement became official.

“Are you... Tatsumi Yamagata?”

When he was walking in the church's corridor, his name was called from behind, causing Tatsumi to stop and look behind him.

Verse, walking next to Tatsumi, also looked back at the same time.

There were at least a dozen, stern-looking priests standing behind him

The all unanimously looked at Tatsumi with a very serious expression. No, they were staring directly at him.

“Yes, I am indeed Tatsumi...?”

The priest in the front was wearing the Sacred Symbol and priestly clothes, so one could tell that he was a senior priest.

The rank of the other priests behind him were disordered, but no one among them seemed to have a higher rank than him.

This was two ranks higher than Tatsumi and Verse. Besides, Tatsumi wasn't acquainted with him.

While Tatsumi was tilting his head as to question why he was called out, Verse, beside him, squeezed his arm.

“... Those guys are Miss Calcedonia's most fervent followers. You better be careful of them.”

Recently in the Savaiv Church, rumours that the Holy Maiden had finally been engaged have been circulating here and there.

Naturally, the rumors also fell into these followers of Calcedonia. Those who listened to the rumors probably came to Tatsumi, the Holy Maiden's partner from the rumor.

“There is something that I want to ask.”

The strict-faced man came forward towards him.

Not only his face, but even his body was stern-looking, and Tatsumi felt the pressure on him increased considerably when the man came forward.

“Is it true that you’re engaged with the Holy Maiden... no, with Lady Calcedonia...?”

So it has come, Tatsumi sighed as he was thinking that.

But, he couldn’t refute that. It was based on the consent of both sides that he and Calcedonia got engaged and it was Calcedonia’s foster father, Giuseppe, the patriarch of Savaiv Church, who gave the approval.

That’s why Tatsumi, with confidence, answered clearly while facing the man in front.

“Yes. Calcedonia and I were with Giuseppe... no, we were officially engaged with the Patriarch as the witness.”

When Tatsumi answered, all of Calcedonia’s followers behind the strict-faced man reacted.

Some crumbled down to their knees and had stunned expressions, while others punched the floor while shedding tears.

“Then... the rumours... were true...?”

The strict-faced man acting as the leader muttered with a somewhat empty expression.

However, the man soon came back to looking as stern as ever, and once again challenged Tatsumi. To this, Tatsumi puffed up his chest.

He, a head larger than Tatsumi, looked down.

The two of them entered a staring contest of sorts. And then, after a short while, the man suddenly clasped Tatsumi’s shoulders heartily and said,

“...We, the ‘Forever Staring at the Holy Maiden’s Shadow Club,’ give you...no, we give our best friend Tatsumi Yamagata our full support!”

—Umm...what did this guy say just now?

Unable to comprehend what exactly the priest was going on about, Tatsumi stood there, involuntarily looking like an idiot.

Presumably to clear things up to Tatsumi, Verse turned to face him. But, Verse only stared at Tatsumi, gaping all the while.

Only when the man in front of them, most likely the leader of the “Forever Staring at the Holy Maiden’s Shadow Club,” continued to say, “As your esteemed self is the partner of the Holy Maiden, we will absolutely help you in any ways possible!” did Tatsumi finally understand. Since there was a pattern to all this.

But, it couldn’t be that these followers of Calcedonia were giving me “full support”?

Tatsumi didn’t dare to think that.

To tell the truth, Tatsumi knew that people were saying strange things on how Calcedonia was engaged.

Some among these people obviously were spreading malicious rumors about him.

Until now, there were many nobles and royals who have send marriage offers to Calcedonia. And now this girl didn’t choose any of the high-ranking potential marriage partners to engage with but suddenly engaged with a foreign man without any warning. The strangeness of this event gave plenty of people plenty of things to think about.

Of course, when they decided to engage with each other, they were prepared for these kinds of things.

However.

This situation was, as one would think, way beyond expectation.

To Tatsumi, still not understanding if this was a good thing, the leader-like man—for now, let’s call him the (probable) leader—continued speaking.

“We of the ‘Forever Staring at the Holy Maiden’s Shadow Club’ have

always been watching over her...Calcedonia. So we understand. Recently...ever since you came, she has been looking happy and blissful.”

The (probable) leader’s stern face paradoxically looked gentle as he was speaking.

Seeing this, Tatsumi realized that these men were speaking out their true feelings.

For other people to understand his and Calsey’s feelings for each other would be on the verge of impossible. But, these people came close. They didn’t know of the time the two spent together in their previous world, but that really couldn’t be helped.

It seemed that the (probable) leader was the type of person with a mean outside and a kind inside.

And just when Tatsumi smiled and was just about to thank the (probable) leader.

Suddenly, Verse, filled with curiosity, asked, “You guys are...umm, the ‘Forever Staring at the Holy Maiden’s Shadow Club’...was it?”

“Indeed. We are the ‘Forever Staring at the Holy Maiden’s Shadow Club.’”

As the (probable) leader answered, the club members of the ‘Forever Staring at the Holy Maiden’s Shadow Club’ puffed out their chest and nodded.

“And, sirs of the ‘Forever Staring at the Holy Maiden’s Shadow Club,’ may I ask on what group you sirs are specifically in?”

As the other party looked to be his superior, Verse switched to using a formal speech, but for some reason, his eyes contained a hint of suspiciousness.

But, the (probable) leader didn’t seem to notice it as he proudly gave his answer.

“We are exactly what our name implies. Every day, we watch Lady



Calcedonia the Holy Maiden's shadow. Our history goes way back, even before Lady Calcedonia was called the Holy Maiden. From around the time when she was adopted by Lord Chrysophrase. We were entrusted to protect a child with an exceedingly high amount of talent in magic, and that child was Lady Calcedonia. Those days were pure and beautiful..."

The (probable) leader had reminiscing eyes as he was extolling about the former Calcedonia.

He looked to be in the late thirties or the early forties. If he was the type of person who looked older than his real age, it still wouldn't be in the twenties.

That old man was talking about the loli Calcedonia in such a passionate way.

With that thought, the class of the (possible) group leader and the members behind him went from "priests" to "pedophiles" in Tatsumi's mind.

"As a result of the esteemed patriarch's guidance, Lady Calcedonia's innate magic talent bloomed and she became to be called the 'Holy Maiden.' But, if you as us, something like 'Holy Maiden' is just too little! She... no, Lady Calcedonia is an emissary of Lord Savaiv from Heaven! What 'Holy Maiden.' She's obviously a 'Celestial Maiden'!"

He continued to preach about the greatness of Calcedonia while flourishing his clenched hands.

But, he needed to remember.

That, right now, he was in a church corridor with Tatsumi and Verse.

Naturally, in this hall, there were other priests. The group members were standing right in the middle of the hallway, and everyone else—Tatsumi and Verse included—were giving strange looks to them.

The other members of the Forever Staring at the Holy Maiden's Shadow Club were going along with the (possible) leader's preaching: they were saying things like "Yep! Yep!" and "That's right!" in accordance to the main talker's words.

On the other hand, Tatsumi and Verse were completely dejected.

If you didn't know the context, it'd look like the two of them were a part of this strange group.

Thought about that way, it's completely understandable why they were feeling like that.

Even so, he continued, “—And so, we stare at Lady Calcedonia's shadow, and we vowed to always protect her! From that day on, we have been fulfilling our duties staring at her! No, our duties in protecting her! One time, we did it even while performing official church duties! Another time, we did it even while we were preaching the words of Savaiv to the followers! Yet another time, we did it even while we were purifying unholy bodies in a bathroom! And yet another time, we did it even while we were sent into toilets in order to avoid being suddenly attacked by insolent fellows! There has never been a time when we haven't watched over her!”

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaait!”

Worried about what the man was going to say next, Tatsumi unintentionally yelled.

However, for the (possible) leader, something as insignificant as Tatsumi's words could not stop him.

“Recently, Lady Calcedonia has been looking livelier when with you. We've been at your house... 's general vicinity and have been watching over her. Please don't worry! We haven't stolen her underwear or anything. Just, her underwear needed a little protection!”

“Isn't that the very definition of a stalker!!!”

If this happened in modern day Japan, there's no doubt that the police would be involved.

But, in this world, the general idea of sexual harassment or stalkers doesn't exist, unfortunately.

Nevertheless, it didn't seem like the Forever Staring at the Holy

Maiden's Shadow Club, or at the very least the (possible) group leader, had any true malicious intent.

“...That's too much...”

“Or rather, you didn't know that these people existed?”

At the worn-out Verse's question, Tatsumi silently shook his head.

Just like the priest said, the club was (usually) only in the general vicinity of Tatsumi and Calcedonia's house. Besides, it was the time when the two of them were alone together, so they didn't really pay attention to the surroundings.

Tatsumi secretly decided to warn the females in the neighborhood when he got home today.

“By the way, Tatsumi? What in the world is a 'stalker'?”

Guessing that it was a word from Tatsumi's hometown, the (possible) group leader tilted his head in confusion.

“...It describes people like you...”

It was only a murmur that Tatsumi spoke. And yet, his mutterings reached ears of the (possible) group leader right in front of him.

“Hmm, a word that describes distinguished shadow-watchers... And, for some reason, it's very powerful... Good, I like it! From now on, we shall not be called the 'Forever Staring at the Holy Maiden's Shadow Club' but the 'Holy Maiden Stalker Club'! What about it gentlemen!?”

From behind the (possible) group leader, there was a resounding cry of “Yes!”

Thus.

A stalker group that advertised itself as a stalker group was born.

“By the way, I just want to hear if this is true...”

After the excitement over the new name died down, the (possible) group leader closed in his huge frame onto Tatsumi once more.

“...I heard from somebody t-that...if somebody got close to you, they'd

also get close to Calcedonia... is that true?"

It seems that this is the true reason why they approached Tatsumi.

In the future, the Holy Maiden Stalker Club was disbanded.

The reason was not known, but a group member had this to say about it: "...O-Only seeing such sweet scenes..... I couldn't take it anymore..."

# Chapter 70 – Trial

Right now, in front of Tatsumi, Jadokh and Miloulle's eyes was a demonic monster.

It was probably twice the size of a cow. Although it wasn't that big of a demonic monster,<sup>[1]</sup> it was still categorized as a large sized one.

The monster was lying on a rock about 20 metres away from Tatsumi and the others; it could even be called elegant.

Spotted lynx. That was the name of the monster in front of them.

The entire body was light gray. And, as the name suggests, there were dark gray spots all over its body.

As for the appearance, it resembled the leopards on Earth. Even though the body was coloured gray, the shape of the pattern was similar.

However, when it came to size, it was bigger than leopards and even tigers. That huge mouth could snap the neck of a human in one bite, and the pointed claws were also like a knife.

Among the monsters that Tatsumi had confronted so far, the biggest one had been the giant snow lizard. But it can't be compared to that at all.

And the most distinctive feature were the two shining golden eyes.

As soon as that golden gaze landed on him, Tatsumi felt something start to bubble up inside his body.

That was fear.

The unbelievable fear was something he had never felt before until now.

The inside of his body felt like it was being eaten up.

It felt like cold ice pillars had been thrust into his body.

It felt like something was about to overflow from his body.

It was both familiar and unfamiliar. Such an unprecedented sensation had

gripped Tatsumi's entire body.

Without realising, his teeth started chattering and his knees became weak. The only reason Tatsumi hadn't yet escaped from this place was that his body had frozen up with fear.

This was..... this was a real demonic monster.

Despite having his body firmly tied by the chains of fear, there was still a part of his brain that was calmly thinking about the following things.

As living beings, the difference in their ranking was too much. Compared to the strong demonic monsters, a human being was such a weak creature.

“..... gulp .....”

Tatsumi glanced next to him with just a movement of his eyes and saw that Jadokh was also slightly trembling with a pale complexion.

Even a warrior such as him – if he could be called ‘him’ – couldn't seem to hold back the fear at the sight of a demonic monster.

The trembling of the arms, that were clenching tightly to weapons, was definitely not because of excitement.

Then a pungent smell entered his nose.

“A..... Aaaaaa.....”

Miloulle, unable to hold back the fear, had ended up falling to the ground. And a pungent smelling puddle surrounded her.

Apparently, she seemed to have peed herself due to fear.

However, Tatsumi had no intention of laughing. No, he can't laugh. Because he too was trying hard not to pee himself.

The spirit of fear had possessed him to that extent.

When he suddenly gathered awareness, he noticed that the the fear that had been gripping him till now was neatly disappearing.

“Ah.....”

Saying just that, Tatsumi looked around him restlessly. Then he finally realised

that the monster that had been lying on the rock until then had disappeared.

“..... Did it run away.....? No, did it fail to see us.....?”

Tatsumi collapsed down as if his whole power had been sucked out from his body.

Tatsumi and the others were probably not even worthy of notice for the spotted lynx.

In this way, the first large demonic monster hunting of Tatsumi and the others ended in a beautiful failure.

“Tatsumi and you guys have been thoroughly finishing all the requests. So, this time, how about taking on a demonic monster of a large size?”

These were the words brought forward by the female owner of The Elf's Resthouse, Eru. It had become really warm with the onset of the new year.

Wild animals had become visible even in the forest on the outskirts of the capital, and small shaped demonic monsters that fed on them could also be seen occasionally.

These small sized demonic monsters were suitable game for the demonic monster hunters.

Of course, Tatsumi and the others also went out to hunt these demonic monsters, and came back with quite a lot of spoils.

Tatsumi and the others' equipment, that had been commercially available leather armour or weapons until then, had also been upgraded to more powerful ones after obtaining the raw materials from the demonic monsters.

Particularly, some of the armour that they wore was made using the leather of the aforementioned giant snow lizard. Although, it wasn't very meaningful in terms of defense, but looking from Tatsumi, Jadokh and Miloulle's view, who formed a team after that event, it could be said to be a memorable emblem.

One day, Eru called out to them.

It seemed that information had come about a large sized demonic monster seen in the forest outside the capital. And it was also confirmed that the demonic monster of that appearance was the one known as the spotted lynx.

“Actually, there’s a little tradition among the demonic monster hunters. If they are able to hunt the spotted lynx then that’s when they’re first recognised as full fledged hunters. Well, in other words, it’s like a rite of passage or baptism.”

Eru explained that among the demonic monster hunters assembled in this The Elf’s Resthouse, the ones who were called experts had all gone through this test.

“Did Calsey also...do this challenge?”

Tatsumi asked his wife who was sitting next to him with a worried expression.

“Yes...I have also experienced this challenge before. No, if it’s a demonic monster hunter with certain skills, then anyone would have the experience.”

That is to say, it was a test for being recognised as a true hunter.

In this case, there was no reason for Tatsumi and the others to refuse.

“I think I want to try doing this challenge but...what do I do?”

“If Tatsumi has decided to do it, I will silently follow.”

“Huh, since you can be recognised as a full fledged hunter, I also want to try doing it.”

It seemed like his friends also wanted to do it.

“Husband...the spotted lynx hunting is a trial for becoming fully qualified hunters so...I cannot accompany you guys.”

Calcedonia told Tatsumi with an apologetic face.

This was a trial for Tatsumi and his friends, so it was only natural that Calcedonia, who had already cleared the trial, would not accompany them.

“Okay. Wait for us at home.”

“Yes, I will pray for your safety.”

After that, Tatsumi and the others purchased a few days’ rations from Eru, affirmed their equipment and left for the test – spotted lynx hunting – in high spirits.



After their backs disappeared beyond the doors of The Elf's Resthouse, Calcedonia and Eru turned towards each other and let out a big sigh.

Then, one of the leaders of the demonic monster hunters, Lint, who seemed to have been looking at the series of interactions, approached them with a troubled face.

"Did Tatsumi and the others leave to hunt for the spotted lynx after just preparing their armour and rations?"

"Yes. That too with great enthusiasm. That's because recently, they have had lots of success with hunting the small sized magical creatures."

"Ah, anyone can have that phase at least once...but their style was a bit too good."

As Eru and Lint said, Tatsumi and the others were doing a good job of hunting. On the contrary, the trio had never failed a hunt uptill today.

"Well, they're doing a spotted lynx hunt because of this but...Holy Maiden> I feel sorry to say this but this time Tatsumi and the others' hunt...will definitely fail."

"Yes. I...also think that Husband and the others will come back with a failure."

Calcedonia had a sad looking face. Lint gave a bitter smile after looking at that face.

"I understand your feelings, but be patient here. This is also a rule of demonic monster hunting. Besides, the spotted lynx doesn't fight back unless it's attacked, so they probably won't be injured. Well, the way they are now, they won't attack the spotted lynx."

Because of what Lint said about the 'rule of demonic monster hunting', Calcedonia could not unnecessarily interfere in this hunt.

She was reluctant to send Tatsumi on the hunt while knowing he would fail.

However, this was also important for Tatsumi right now. Because she understood that, Calcedonia could not say anything to Tatsumi.

"Well, when your husband returns in low spirits, he will have his new wife to comfort him."

Lint laughed heartily with a “gahahaha.” Apparently, it seemed like he wanted to dispel the depressing atmosphere.

“Should I also make something delicious for him?”

Tatsumi and the others would probably return after tomorrow at the least. It wasn't that easy to find a demonic monster in a wide forest.

They had to search for the whereabouts of the monster, little by little, by following the footprints and leftover food, and even the droppings. Even though demonic monster hunting required skill, if you weren't lucky it was a very time consuming task.

How can I cheer up Tatsumi when he comes home probably in low spirits? Calcedonia left The Elf's Resthouse while thinking about this.

Jadokh stirred the crackling fire with the tip of a piece of firewood.

The flame flared up for a moment, spurred on by the fresh air, and scattered some sparks in the surrounding.

Tatsumi and Jadokh stared at the flames in silence.

Unexpectedly, Tatsumi lifted his face and gazed around his surroundings.

“.....where's Miloulle...?”

“Miloulle is at the nearby lake. Please try to understand.”

Tatsumi also thought of the same thing. She was probably cleaning her sullied body.

“...Will she be alright by herself?”

“To be honest, it's not something to be praised about but...we don't have a choice now.”

Before long, it was night.

Tatsumi started, “...A demonic monster... a real demonic monster, they're so messed up...”

“Honestly, I was scared too. Until now, every time I've fought, I was able to conquer the fear. But.....seeing that demonic monster made me feel the worst kind of fear in my life,” Jadokh replied.

Tatsumi and Jadokh, both with the same expressions, were talking to each other while staring at the dancing flames of the fire.

“...Eru said that we had to hunt that monster before we could be considered full-fledged hunters...”

“...From now on, we'll have to be fighting even stronger monsters, won't we...”

Today, Tatsumi and co. met with a spotted lynx. That monster that etched a violent fear into their hearts was only the entrance to the professional beast-hunter world. In other words, many more monsters stronger than the spotted lynx would appear.

Jadokh was saying that as they progressed on the path of being a beast-hunter, they'd have to fight things stronger than the spotted lynx.

But, honestly saying, any self-confidence they had before seeing the spotted lynx was completely gone.

Could we even continue being beast-hunters? Such thoughts were constantly in their heads.

In Tatsumi's case, becoming a demonic beast-hunter was but one step in his plan. His dream for the future was to become an exorcist like Calcedonia.

However, there were devils that possessed things, like the one with the giant snow lizard. What if a devil possessed a demonic monster?

Could they even fight something as strong as that?

Tatsumi, keeping those thoughts to his heart, continued fixedly staring at the flames without saying a word.

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[\[1\]](#) Note that a demonic monster is different from a demonic beast, which is what you've been seeing before.